

Friday June 14 1996

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Arts, books and music

Catherine Bennett on superstition

Tuning in to pop's new generation

Review

The retreat from reason

Britpop is dead, long live Bratpop

Books: Hugh Grant unzipped

Plus: Millennium muddle

Twice as many childless women as population falls

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

AT LEAST one in five women now in their 20s and 30s will have no children, government statisticians predicted yesterday as they set out how Britain's population will start to fall for the first time since records began.

The proportion of women who remain childless is expected to double compared with those now in their 40s and 50s, as growing numbers decide to put careers first. The trend was underscored by figures showing that the abortion rate in inner London — where the number of working women is highest — has reached 35 per cent of all pregnancies. The national average is about 20 per cent.

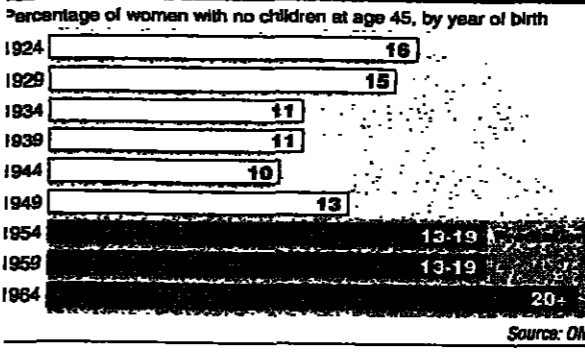
Apart from a blip in 1983, Britain's population has been growing for hundreds of years and may not have been on a downward trend since the Black Death in 1347-51. Officials of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) expect that the United Kingdom's population, now more than 58 million, will start falling after 2025, and drop to about 55 million by 2075.

The birth rate is already below the level necessary to replenish the population, but totals are being sustained by the swelling ranks of pensioners and the large number of women born in the 1960s who are of child-bearing age. Birth rates are dropping in much of Europe, and Germany already has a falling population. According to ONS forecasts, more than 20 per cent of women born since 1964 will have no children. Latest figures show that 61 per cent of those born in 1969 were childless at 25, as were 23 per cent of those born in 1969 at 35. The forecast of 20 per cent

childlessness by the age of 45 among those born since 1964 compares with 10 per cent of women born in 1944 and 13 per cent of those born in 1948. Bob Armitage, an ONS statistician, said the trend stemmed from "things like women choosing to remain in employment, or to go through education." He added: "It is a problem. We are likely to have a population more heavily weighted to the elderly." The birth rate among women aged 25-29, the peak age for having babies, fell last year to its lowest since 1941. The rate among women aged 30-34

is higher than that among those aged 20-24, indicating that women having children are increasingly doing so after establishing a career. A new analysis of abortion data shows that women in the South-east are much more likely than average to terminate a pregnancy. In 1983, the abortion rate in inner London was 35 per cent, while in most of greater London it was 26 per cent. Overall, one in three pregnancies outside marriage was aborted, compared with fewer than one in 10 of those of married women. Most couples seeking divorce would have to wait longer under the changes in a bill due for a third reading in the Commons next Monday, according to a study of 1994 divorce statistics by the ONS. At present, about two in three divorces are fault-based. Under the changes, which would impose an 18-month period of reflection for couples with children under 16, nine in 10 of such couples would have to wait longer. Four in five of those without dependent children, who would face a corresponding 12-month delay, would also wait longer.

Women and childbirth



Thatcher scorns Major with cash gift

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

LADY Thatcher yesterday dealt a new blow to Tory unity on Europe, and renewed her feud with John Major, when she pointedly handed a substantial donation from her own purse to Bill Cash's European Foundation, following the enforced withdrawal of funding for the foundation by Sir James Goldsmith.

John Major was so infuriated by her provocative action that he ended his truce with Lady Thatcher and told her that she would have been better advised to give her spare cash to the Conservative Party. Mr Major's anger was compounded by the fact that Lady Thatcher's speedy intervention put Mr Cash back on the front foot and is seen as an implicit endorsement of him, despite his connections with Sir James, whose Referendum Party is planning to put up candidates against the Conservatives at the next election. Mr Cash said: "It was a spontaneous donation made by Lady Thatcher. It is substantial. I am extremely delighted at the confidence she is showing in the foundation and myself. She is one of the great prime ministers of our time."

"Dear Bill, The work of the European Foundation in researching and publishing information about European issues is vital both to the Conservative Party and to the country. It is well known that the advocates of European federalism have never lacked access to funding. Not so those who seek to preserve British sovereignty. It is therefore all the more important that your Foundation should continue its activities. As we have discussed, I am making a donation to help it do so. Yours ever Margaret"

But Mr Major said of Lady Thatcher's donation: "Everyone must choose what to do with their own money. Lady Thatcher must answer for her own actions. Personally, I would have given the money to the Conservative Party." Conservative officials tried to play down the significance of the donation, pointing out that as a party member Lady Thatcher was not in breach of any party rules. However, earlier yesterday, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke had attacked Mr Cash: "The policies suggested by Bill Cash would take us out of the European Union and would be detaching us from the prospect of influencing and would put us in a subordinate position." Lady Thatcher gave her undisclosed donation following a telephone conversation with Mr Cash yesterday. In her subsequent letter she said the foundation's work was "vital both to the Conservative Party and to the country". She wrote: "It is well known that the advocates of European federalism have



Lady Thatcher... European Foundation "vital both to the Conservative Party and to the country" she told Bill Cash

never lacked access to funding. Not so those who seek to preserve British sovereignty. It is therefore all the more important that your foundation should continue its activities." Mr Cash had been embarrassed earlier this week when he was forced to confirm that he had been taking cash from Sir James. Tory whips ordered Mr Cash to sever his links with Sir James. Even Tory sceptics felt Mr

Cash had made a misjudgment by taking money from a man planning to unseat Conservatives at the next election. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "The Conservative Party is continuing its war with itself, with Mrs Thatcher once again showing complete contempt for her successor. Bill Cash has not had to search very far to find someone as opposed to the Government's line as Sir James Goldsmith."

Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrats' European Union affairs spokesman, said last night: "This is the greatest possible two-finger salute from the former Tory Prime Minister to the present Tory Prime Minister. This contemptuous contribution is designed to add insult to the injuries suffered already by John Major. It's a case of 'Up yours, Major.'" Companies House records show that the European

Foundation received donations of £116,712 in 1994, the last recorded year. The revival of the feud between Mr Major and his predecessor rounded off a disastrous week for the prime minister, in which two backbench Tory MPs successfully threatened to destroy his one-vote Commons majority — by turn to page 2, column 3

Sorry, Ma'am, but it's just an old pot

Don Glaister, Arts Correspondent

THE Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair promises that "every item, whatever its value, has been vetted for quality, condition and authenticity". But when its patron, the Queen Mother, agreed to lend a pair of Chinese famille verte porcelain cachepots, the vetters made an embarrassing discovery. The jardinières were not the product of the Kangxi period (1662-1722), but dated from the late 19th century. Worse, they were not Chinese, but had been made in Paris. The fair is one of the main events of the London season, a chance for collectors, dealers and the public to meet. The organisers said in a statement that the discovery made the jardinières "even more interesting". But another source said: "That means they are nasty little fakes." The fair's statement continued: "Specialists are of the opinion that the vases date from the 19th century and were made by the celebrated Samson factory." Samson, known as Samson the Imitator, established a factory in Paris in 1845 devoted to producing replace-



ments and exact copies of sought-after ceramics. "There was a large amount of reproducing of works in the 19th century and a lot of collectors who looked for examples of earlier works," said a spokesman for Sotheby's. "Samson was dispatched to produce copies. They weren't made fraudulently. Samson often used to incorporate an 'S' in the mark to give a clue that the piece was not an original. But at some point the marks might have been removed and then it becomes difficult to tell the original from the copy." But the source at the fair said the pots should not be on show. "Because they came from the royal patron, the fair has obsequiously left them on show."

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Inside 3

Britain An 11-year-old boy who killed an elderly woman by toppling a concrete slab from a tower block was given a fresh start in life.

World News 7 Colombia's Congress halted impeachment proceedings against President Samper and the US is now likely to impose sanctions.

Finance 11 Sainsbury will need to increase sales by £400 million a year to cover the costs of the loyalty card it plans to launch.

Sport 15 Romania became the first side to go out of Euro 96 when they lost 1-0 to Bulgaria amid controversy over a disallowed goal.

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"A TERRIFIC TWISTED COMEDY A BAZZLING MIX OF MIRTH AND MALICE" "A DELICIOUSLY CONVOLUTED TALE OF CRIME, PUNISHMENT, AND A COWARDLY USED CAR SALESMAN" FARGO SMALL TOWN BIG CRIME DEAD COIN WINNER BEST DIRECTOR JOEL COEN CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1996 FRANCES McDORMAND WILLIAM B. MACY STEVE BUSCEMI AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW

Sketch

Blackmail lands PM in casualty



Simon Hoggart

It was one of the great PM's Question Times, which I shall be describing in the next century when young journalists come to pay their respects at the Home for Retired Sketchwriters...

It began with Jacques Arnold, the Undead Tory MP for Gravesend, who began with a question so greasy, so lustroously thick and oily, that it could be used as Swarlega industrial cleanser.

I believe Mr Arnold "lives" in a coffin, buried every mid-night in unconsecrated ground near Chesapside.

He began in his familiar croak: "Will you agree that the firm and resolute management of the British economy by this Government has created the best performing economy in Europe?"

Many top greasers would feel this was enough. Not Mr Arnold. "...tragedy if this were to be thrown away by a Labour government..."

On and on he droned. At least Boris Karloff's voice went up and down a bit (an icicle inserted in the brain will melt, and leave no trace).

For the next questioner was Tony Blair. He wanted to know if it was true that two

London Tory MPs had told whips they would stop voting if accident and emergency facilities serving their constituents were not restored.

Blackmail is an ugly word, mon cher ami Hastings, and Mr Blair did not use it. But he did suggest the threat had worked; wasn't this a "disruptable" way to run a government?

Mr Major was at his most urbane. No, he said, Mr Blair's version was not substantially true. "There is no possibility of a government responding to such approaches. I hope you are reassured."

Mr Blair pointed out that the two MPs had been told the A&E would not be replaced. "Is this one of life's happy coincidences?"

The exchanges began to get nasty. Mr Major said that fifteen people had made representations about the A&E, implying that the MPs were just two among many.

Mr Ashdown clipped in with a fine moralising rant: "This is an administration which has no further purpose except to ensure by whatever means and whatever cost its own limping and miserable survival," he remarked.

Backbenchers were now following abuse. Speaker Boothroyd started "naming" them. Mr Harry Greenway stood up to name another.

And in the mayhem, the Prime Minister remained calm, poised and even delectable. "The tactic of threatening to withhold support is not going to work. It is not acceptable, it has not worked, and will not work in the future," he said, suavely.

So he must have been delighted when one of the two MPs rose to agree. "Will you allow me to confirm what you said?" asked John Gort (C, Hemton N) silkily. That sounded safe.

Then he added that, while the old A&E department was not being retained, they had been promised instead "a casualty unit, which instead of having nurses would have qualified doctors 24 hours a day!"

Super not any old A&E, but a superduper new unit staffed by dreamboat doctors, like Chicago's ER or the BBC's Casualty. In other words, outright victory to the blackmail gang. Labour cheered with maniacal delight.

First night

Berkoff struts his over the top stuff

Michael Billington Coriolanus Mermaid Theatre

NO DOUBT who is in charge at the Mermaid: Steven Berkoff reopens the theatre with a Coriolanus which he has directed, designed and in which he stars.

Even in Shakespeare's least likeable hero there is light and shade. But, significantly, Berkoff cuts Coriolanus's lines reflecting his concern for a poor man who gave him hospitality and even reverses his hatred of public praise by showing him glorying in hero-worshipping clients.

The best feature of a way over the top performance is its sardonic humour. This Coriolanus, accused by the people of being a traitor, goes around silently mouthing the word like some East End bruiser looking for a scrap.

A lot, however, depends on one's vantage point. Both Berkoff's performance and the production look much better from far off. After the interval I moved from my front seat, where I could see the plumb line standing out on Berkoff's neck, to the back row where

everything gained in perspective. The set, consisting of six black columns and patterned parquet-flooring, suddenly looked impressive. And Berkoff's stylised, choreographed production acquired the shape and rhythm of a rather brutal version of Les Sylphides.

His real strength throughout, in fact, lies not in exploration of Shakespeare's sinewy language but in mime and movement. The Roman plebeians which like dervishes armed with staves and clubs. Volunna and Virginia in their opening scene deftly sew with invisible thread.

Huge doors are evoked through the grunting strain of their being parted. And, at the very end, Berkoff's fascist anti-hero goes to a defiant death as he wrests an imagined sword from his stomach.

The overall effect, aided by Mark Gieniewski's percussive music, is like a piece of Japanese theatre. The problem, of course, is that Shakespeare makes his points through language. And the only performers to give the verse its due are Faith Brook, as an icily impassioned Volunna, Colin McFarlane as a towering Aufidius and John McNery as a subtle Cominius who at the climax rather creepily puts the peace treaty back in his briefcase.

As a piece of staging, the production looks highly disciplined and controlled not least in its marshalling of the excellent ensemble. One just wishes Berkoff showed the same sensitivity to the verse as he does to the volatile possibilities of movement. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

US scientists find genetic key to fighting skin cancer

Tim Radford Science Editor

SCIENTISTS in California have discovered the gene behind the most common form of human cancer. Basal cell carcinoma, a skin cancer which strikes around 32,000 people in Britain every year, stems from a faulty version of a gene first found in a

fruit fly. The news, revealed in the US Journal Science today, opens new opportunities for treatment. "Now that we have identified a gene, researchers may be able to develop drugs that could be applied directly to the skin for treatment of these cancers," said Ervin Epstein, one of the collaborators and a dermatologist at San Francisco general hospital.

Protests planned over suspect beef products banned at home □ Row risks efforts to ease ban

French fury at fodder exports

Paul Webster in Paris and Tim Radford

FRENCH farmers were preparing to hold nationwide demonstrations as anger grew yesterday over claims that Britain continued to export suspect animal feed after it had been banned at home.

Politicians and the press joined in the attack yesterday, with Liberation describing John Major's policies as "unequalled political cynicism".

But Whitehall reacted angrily yesterday to claims that British firms exported tainted meat and bone meal to other European Union countries.

Downing Street dismissed it as "a ridiculous and damaging story" which could hinder efforts to resolve the beef war. With ministers working

frantically to produce a framework deal ahead of next weekend's Florence summit, officials insisted the European Commission had always known its policies on such products since the late 1980s.

Disclosures on British feed exports, which Liberation said amounted to more than 3,000 tonnes in January this year, could force a rethink of President Jacques Chirac's recent demands for more understanding of the British position and support for the partial lifting of a ban on beef derivatives.

French opposition accusations that the government has been complacent have poisoned the atmosphere in parliament. The agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, has blamed France's former Socialist government, which fell in 1993, for failing to carry out strict controls on imports of British beef and feed.

But Mr Vasseur has now confirmed that imports of suspect animal feed from Britain doubled after the British ban on their domestic use. This led the Socialists' former budget minister, Michel Charasse, to accuse Gaullist governments of failing in their duty, although France was the first to ban British beef.

"I find it absolutely amazing that Britain has the cheek to knock at Europe's door while asking us to accept its filth," Mr Charasse said. The row erupted after the journal, Nature, yesterday highlighted the pattern of British exports of meat and bonemeal at the end of the 1980s.

In June 1988, the British government banned the use of ruminant-derived protein in ruminant food. Significantly, in 1988, British exports doubled — and

exports to France increased enormously. In the same year, however, France then banned the import of British animal-based feed unless destined for non-ruminants, and in 1990, France banned the use of meat and bonemeal in cattle feed — so British exports to France fell sharply again.

But there the arguments begin. Ground-up dead sheep and cattle could still be fed to pigs and poultry, in Britain and abroad. So it could still be exported, and what importers used it for was up to them.

As the British ban in 1988 caused prices to plummet, the French believe that cheap feed was snapped up in France. Animal feed labels are not very specific. EU law requires only the statement that the contents contain "products of animal origin".

Le Monde

Vache folle : la Grande-Bretagne a exporté assivement des farines animales contaminées



Tally Ho! A Le Monde cartoon portrays a cynical Britain

Tension rises as Russian poll violence flares

David Hearst in Moscow

TENSION mounted yesterday in Russia's most violent election campaign since the fall of the Soviet Union, as Chechen rebel separatists appeared poised to disrupt local elections and two politicians were gunned down.

A neighbour of Viktor Mosalov, the mayor of Zhukovskoy, a Russian aerospace research town, found him shot on the stairs outside his home. In Kemerovo, Vladimir Oberdörfer, a local secretary of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, was shot in the head by a man who had stopped to buy cigarettes in a kiosk.

The attacks follow a bomb explosion on Tuesday in the Moscow metro, which killed four passengers and severely injured 17. Meanwhile, separatists in Chechnya reacted with fury to Moscow's apparent acquiescence to a decision by loyalist Chechens to hold elections in Grozny on Sunday, in breach of an agreement reached in Nazran earlier this week.

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the leader of the Chechen rebels, said that any attempt to couple local elections to the national poll, also on Sunday, would "provoke a response".

Last night, Russian officials were desperately trying to keep the Nazran agreement on track. Under the deal, Russia promised to hold elections in Chechnya after federal troops had been withdrawn.

Grigory Yavlinsky, the leading democratic challenger to President Boris Yeltsin said Chechnya was once again on the verge of war.

Gennady Zyuganov, the main communist challenger, blamed Mr Yeltsin's policies for the wave of violence. "Unfortunately, we pay for these policies with someone's blood every day," he said.

Mr Zyuganov claimed that he had practically won the election, saying that two-thirds of the country sup-

ported the ideals of "national patriotism and social justice".

After the metro blast, Mr Yeltsin said the act "belonged to the forces of the past" — a reference to the communists.

The pre-election claims of both candidates in a race that is bound to be tight is already putting pressure on the officials of the Central Election Commission. The national organisation has already shown its loyalty to Mr Yeltsin — but the threat of fraud will be greatest at a local level.

Pressure on officials who conduct the count at Russia's 93,000 polling stations started in January this year, after the communists swept to victory in parliamentary elections.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said "the corresponding conclusions" would be drawn about regional officials in areas where the communists won.

The communists are sending 180,000 observers — two to each polling station — to check the count. Yesterday, the organisation supporting Mr Yeltsin said they would send five to each polling station.

Presidential supporters in the upper house of parliament recently killed a bill by democratic deputies to establish a politically neutral observer presence in polling stations.

Nikolai Petrov of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said: "The capacity for falsification is unlimited."

Mr Petrov said the communists will try to improve the result in their heartlands in the knowledge that pro-Yeltsin regional officials will cheat even more. "It's not risky to falsify, because no one has been punished for it in the past," he said.

The climate of fear has been fuelled by an effective campaign run by Mr Yeltsin to link Stalinist atrocities to today's Communist Party.

After years of official neglect of the victims of the Gulag, a memorial was unveiled to victims in Magadan, and a statue was erected to Tsar Nicholas II, who was killed by the Bolsheviks.



Supporters of Boris Yeltsin sit precariously on top of a bus stop during a rally in central Moscow PHOTOGRAPH DAVID BRACHUK

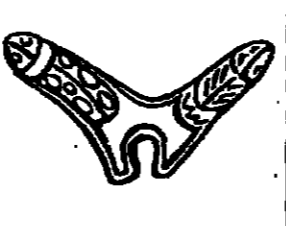
Sex and the prehistoric tool

Maeve Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

SEX was regarded as just as much fun in prehistoric times as it is today, according to a British archaeologist who has reinterpreted ancient objects believed to have been spear straighteners and figures of women giving birth as dildos and women masturbating.

Timothy Taylor attacks the belief that sex in prehistoric times was purely for reproduction or of ritual importance. The obvious interpretation, that sex was also for enjoyment, and that the objects were erotic, has been missed.

Mr Taylor, of the Department of Archaeological Science at Bradford university, has re-examined some startling objects, in pursuit



A spear straightener...

of his theory. Objects carved as phalluses, widely found in Upper Palaeolithic art, have been ingeniously interpreted as spear straighteners or batons.

"These batons fall within the size range of dildos," he says. "It seems disingenuous to avoid the most obvious explanation."

did. Mr Taylor writes in the July issue of British Archaeology. A gold penis decoration found with a skeleton which seems to have been buried face down in the earth with penis erect, in an early Copper Age grave at Varna, Bulgaria. "The value of the material suggests the object was meant to be seen."

A recumbent figure of a Neolithic woman from Hagar Qim in Malta, interpreted by another archaeologist as a woman on the point of giving birth, could only be seen that way by a society accustomed to hospital births, Mr Taylor insists.

"The Hagar Qim woman is not giving birth at all. She is masturbating, with one hand languidly supporting her head."

Thatcher scorns Major with Euro cash gift

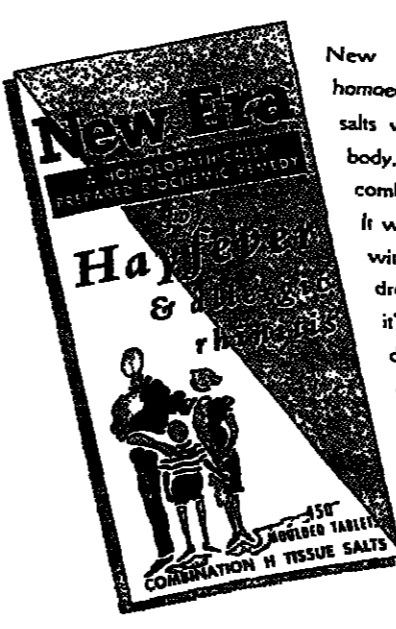
continued from page 1 withdrawing their support unless ministers capitulated in a local hospital row.

But they were in the dog-house for undermining Mr Major's authority for something as parochial as the saving of a casualty unit at Edgware hospital.

Both Mr Major and the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, denied succumbing to blackmail. "There is no possibility of the Government responding to approaches of that sort," the prime minister told the Commons. Few MPs believed him.

Rebels ostracised, page 3; Politics, page 9; Leader comment, page 16

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The Guardian Judge places 11 'New S in slab

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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

150 Miss J

Judge places 11-year-old under supervision order 'New start' for boy in slab killing case

Martin Wainwright

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy who killed an elderly woman by toppling a concrete slab from a tower block was given a fresh, but closely supervised, start in life yesterday by a senior judge, with the approval of police and relatives of his victim.

Although convicted of manslaughter, the boy was spared a detention order which Lord Justice Potter said risked bringing him into contact with "some pretty unruly children" and upsetting a new start which had already seen a "dramatic" change in his behaviour.

At Leeds crown court, the boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was placed on a three-year supervision order. The judge said that he was well aware of "proper public concern" over the tragedy at Grayson Heights, Leeds, but that any case involving a defendant aged only 10 at the time of the manslaughter posed a "real sentencing problem".

The judge emphasised the severity of the tragedy at the 12-storey tower block in the suburb of Kirkstall. Edna Condie, aged 74, was killed instantly when the 20lb slab hit her as she returned to Gray-

son Heights after a shopping trip with her husband George and daughter Jan.

"The death of Mrs Condie was a terrible and tragic event which came literally from out of the sky," said Lord Justice Potter. "It has caused terrible distress to Mr Condie and all the Condie family."

Addressing the chubby, crewcut boy directly, he said: "You may not have understood everything that has gone on here, but you do understand that there are now a lot of people taking a very serious interest in you, because of this very serious thing that has happened."

The boy whispered "Yes", repeating the word when the judge asked him to confirm that he would accept the instructions of a senior social worker who will visit him twice weekly, liaise with his mother and stepfather — described by the judge as "decent, concerned and co-operative parents" — and monitor his progress at school.

Graham Stowe, solicitor for the boy, said that the family had moved five miles from Kirkstall after the tragedy, and that the boy had flourished after transferring from a special school into mainstream education.

He had also ceased to have anything to do with two other

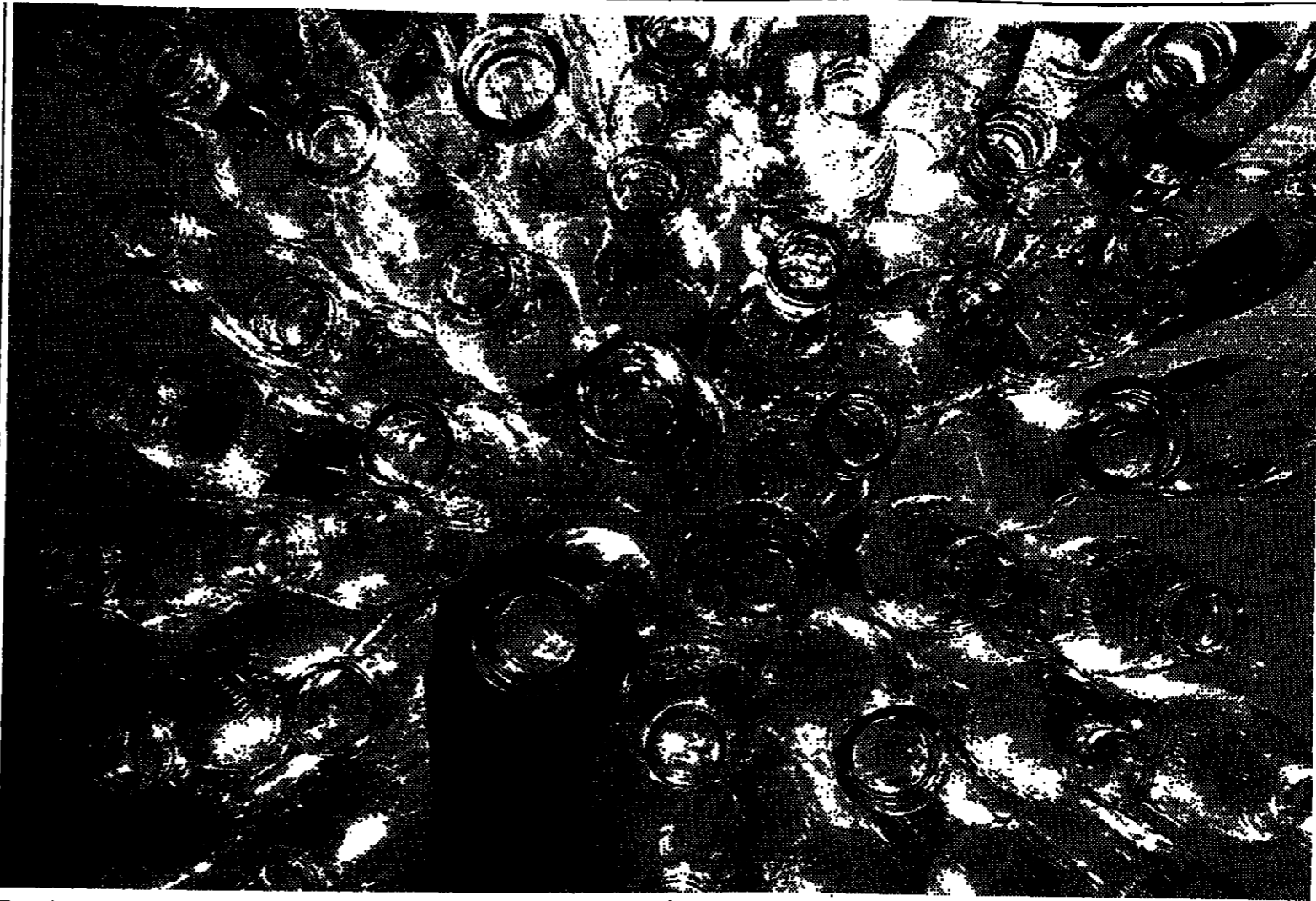
boys on the roof at the time of the tragedy, which came during a summer holiday spell when other children, including several older ones, had played "dare" games on the roof and had thrown bottles, stones and other material to the ground.

Lord Justice Potter said that he had been left in no doubt that the boy was easily influenced and anxious to impress, and that one other boy in particular had led him on.

The court heard that George Condie had expressed sorrow for the boy and felt no malice towards him.

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Brown, who led the investigation, said after the hearing that he was satisfied that the matter had come to court, had been fully considered and a sentence had been passed.

Mr Stowe said after the hearing: "It may be that those who do not know the background would say that this boy has got off lightly, but those who have been in court and heard the facts do not take that view."



Touch of glass... Robert Benewick, a professor at Sussex university, shows off some of his collection of 500 milk bottles dating from 1890. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Safety first after lake drownings

Martin Wainwright

POLICE and park staff are to draw up new safety measures at a deep lake where two "gallant and selfless" men died in icy water as they tried to rescue a drowning schoolgirl.

The move follows a call yesterday by West Yorkshire coroner David Hinchcliff after an inquest heard warning notices and lifebuoys had been ripped down by vandals at Hemsforth water park near Wakefield, where 11-year-old Tracey Pattison fell through thin ice on the 20ft deep lake last December.

Off-duty firefighter Mick Mee, aged 49, and retired shopkeeper Jack Crawshaw, 51, died trying to save her. Mr Hinchcliff recorded a verdict of misadventure on the three victims.

Mr Hinchcliff said the emergency services and park staff should prepare new emergency measures, including a review of personnel in the park. The inquest heard that the usual four-strong team of staff had been on Christmas time off on December 28 when the three died.

Pathologist Clare McDonald said the three died from cardiac arrest in the minus

2C water, in which maximum survival time was estimated at 12 minutes. Attempts to resuscitate them continued for five hours at Pontefract general infirmary.

Group maintenance manager Peter Hardaker said he had left the lake unsupervised while on his lunch break.

He was trained in first-aid, but the complexities of rescue on ice-bound water had not been part of the course.

He told the inquest that six ice warning signs had been wrecked and two lifebuoys flung far out on to the ice.

In a written statement, Tracey's schoolfriend, Gemma Holland, also 11, said she was walking a dog which slipped its lead and ran on to the ice. "Tracey said she was going for the dog. I told her not to. I heard her shout 'Help' and when I looked round she was in the water and the ice had broken."

Mr Hinchcliff said: "This is a tragedy of the most appalling proportions in which I have had to consider the gallantry, heroism and selfless actions of these men."

Mr Mee's widow, Liz, said after the hearing: "Safety round lakes like Hemsforth should be improved so that the tragedy affecting us cannot claim any more families."

Labour MPs win damages over claim of 'IRA support'

LABOUR MPs Clare Short and Kevin McNamara yesterday won substantial damages and apologies in the High Court for an article which claimed they were "well known for their support of Sinn Fein/IRA and a united republican Ireland".

The Guardian took their comments in June 1985 from a press release issued by Stuart Sexton, Conservative Party candidate in the Northern Ireland constituency of North Down, and Paul Megarity, his election agent.

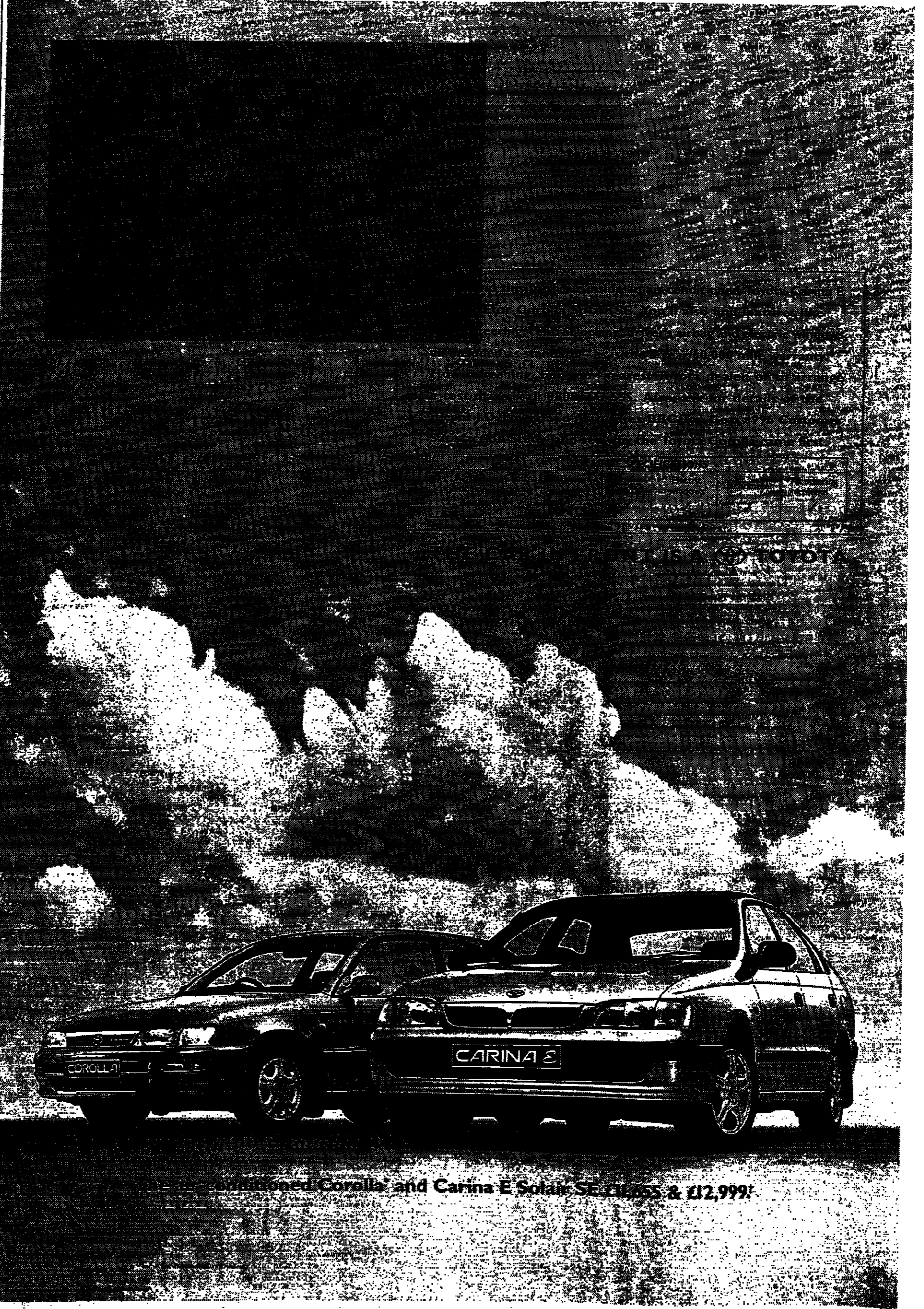
Geoffrey Bindman, representing the MPs, told Mr Justice French: "This comment asserted that Ms Short and Mr McNamara supported the IRA, and implied therefore that they supported a movement which promoted political terrorism in Northern Ireland."

He said that Mr Sexton and Dr Megarity now accepted that the MPs had never supported the IRA or any party promoting terrorism and the Guardian had already acknowledged this before the action began.

"In fact, both Ms Short and Mr McNamara have maintained total public opposition to the use of terrorist violence throughout their parliamentary careers," said Mr Bindman.

He said the three parties were now apologising unreservedly in open court "for any distress and embarrassment that the comments in the article and the press release may have caused".

The MPs had accepted damages and were happy that there was no foundation for the comments and that their reputations had been "vindicated".



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Poverty lesson . . . Peter Lilley speaking on welfare reform and Christian values at Southwark cathedral, south London. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Lilley challenges 'poor getting poorer' claim in sermon on poverty

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS have commissioned research which they will use in the run-up to the general election to counter the accusation that the poor have got poorer under the Conservatives, Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, yesterday disclosed.

The findings "challenge any contention that those on low earnings generally saw their earnings fall", Mr Lilley said in a speech on welfare reform and Christian values at Southwark cathedral, south London.

The minister, a practising Anglican, used the speech to justify in a Christian context his approach to relief of poverty. The Church, he argued, had a right to speak out on poverty and help the needy, but it had no mission to seek greater equality in society.

"We are all equal in the sight of God and before the law. But I searched my con-

cordance in vain — with the possible exception of the parable of the vineyard — for suggestions that we must pursue equality and award equal incomes for equal effort, risk or skill," Mr Lilley said.

The speech followed a recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, arguing that millions of people could be pulled out of poverty by increasing their state benefits by £15 a week.

Mr Lilley said a £15-a-week increase would cost £6.5 billion and mean an extra 1.2 million people would become entitled to benefit and "pushed into dependency". The new research, due to be published shortly, has been ordered by Mr Lilley to challenge assertions — based on "snapshot" official data — that the gap between the rich and the poor has widened greatly since 1979 and that the number of people living in poverty has tripled.

The study has looked at the national insurance records of a sample of men aged 25 in the period 1978-1993. According to Mr Lilley, it shows that

90 per cent of the lowest-earning tenth of the sample in 1978 had higher earnings in real terms by 1993, compared to less than 75 per cent of the sample as a whole.

Moreover, the earnings of the lowest-earning fifth rose 42 per cent over the period, compared to an increase of 33 per cent enjoyed by the highest-earning fifth.

Mr Lilley said about three in four of those leaving jobs were back in employment within a year. "The greatest inequality observed by the snapshot studies . . . has more to do with greater mobility up and down a wider span of earnings and in and out of work."

Chris Smith, shadow social security secretary, said many of Mr Lilley's remarks had shown a "complete divorce from reality".

Paul Goggins, national co-ordinator of the Church Action on Poverty pressure group, said: "This speech was billed as serious contribution to Christian thinking, but it seems to have more to do with party politics than real theology."

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Divorce bill 'salvaged'

Rebecca Smithers, Political Correspondent

THE Government was last night confident of having salvaged the troubled Family Law Bill's divorce reforms, after ministers accepted a package of concessions demanded by Labour in return for its support at the third reading in the Commons next Monday.

Gary Streeter, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, stressed the Government was backing the amendments to strengthen the bill — notably on issues of domestic violence and provisions for children.

"No deals have been sought or done. Our object is to build a consensus. The House must decide," he said.

The Government has agreed to accept three amendments tabled yesterday by Labour which require the right of children to be represented by a third party in court proceedings, the right of police to intervene in cases of domestic violence, and the acceptance that mediation would not be appropriate in cases of domestic violence.

But it has refused to capitulate on Labour's demands for an early introduction of "pension splitting", whereby divorced couples will be entitled to a share of their partner's pension.

Last night Labour's legal affairs spokesman Paul Boateng warned the Government that it could still not rely on the party's support on Monday, when it would be presenting its full demands to ministers.

The Government is aware the bill remains vulnerable on amendments involving issues of religious conviction or conscience, where Tory rebels could oppose it in a free vote.

Mr Streeter said the Government was willing to look favourably on a "religious beliefs" clause, if it is tabled, allowing a court to refuse a divorce if a family is plunged into hardship or ostracised by its religious community in contested cases.

But he made clear the Government would not accept an amendment proposed by Dame Jill Knight proposing a clause allowing couples to "conscientiously object" to the new divorce law by insisting that their marriage was different from others.

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Labour reform of lottery could include cap on profits

Andrew Cull, Media Correspondent

THE £1 million-a-week profits of Camelot, the operator of the National Lottery, could be capped under a Labour government, the party said yesterday.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow national heritage secretary, floated a series of possible reforms, including increasing from five to eight the number of good causes receiving cash.

Camelot, heavily criticised last week after announcing pre-tax profits of £77.5 million, was warned the rules are likely to change at the end of its seven year licence period. "We will look for a change, perhaps to a 'not for profit' organisation to run the lottery or a cap on profits," Mr Cunningham said.

Speaking at a Fabian seminar in London, he unveiled the preliminary findings of Labour's National Lottery advisory group, due to make recommendations in the autumn. The new good causes could run as time-limited, cash-limited projects. Money could be used to train teachers in the advantages of new technologies, help pensioners insulate their houses and give schoolchildren access to musical instruments and tuition.

Other possible reforms by Labour include separating the two functions performed by Peter Davis, director general of the regulator Oflot, who chooses the operator and regulates its activities, and allowing bookmakers to take bets on which lottery numbers will be drawn.

Mr Cunningham said it was essential that more of the lottery's profits went back to the people who bought the tickets instead of into Camelot's coffers.

Cook ready to trade sovereignty for progress

John Palmer in Brussels

LABOUR is ready to trade Britain's sovereignty for more effective European Union decisions where this is in the interests of the British people, the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in Brussels yesterday.

In a declaration of Labour's pro-European convictions, Mr Cook said "the failed Tory project of confrontation has to be replaced with a culture of co-operation."

He also distanced Labour even further from the Government's beef war tactic of obstruction in the EU.

Mr Cook said that if Mr Major returned from the Florence EU summit without a firm date for the lifting of the beef ban the blocking of EU decisions would be seen as a disastrous failure.

Mr Cook, delivering a John Smith memorial lecture, claimed that responsibility for lack of popular enthusiasm in Britain for the "European project" lay squarely with the Tory policy on confrontation in Brussels.

"What the public wants is a government that can handle our relations with the rest of Europe, not one that deals in heroic failure," he said.

In remarks which will be studied by other EU governments for what they reveal about Labour's attitude to the current Maastricht treaty review, Mr Cook said that "interdependence in the modern world was more valuable than 'independence'."

He continued: "It might be necessary to trade part of national sovereignty if it is in the national interest. Sovereignty is not total but relative."

Accusing Conservatives of tunnel vision, he said that while a loss of national sovereignty might be seen as a threat by national politicians, "losing some of that sovereign power might be in the interests of the people."



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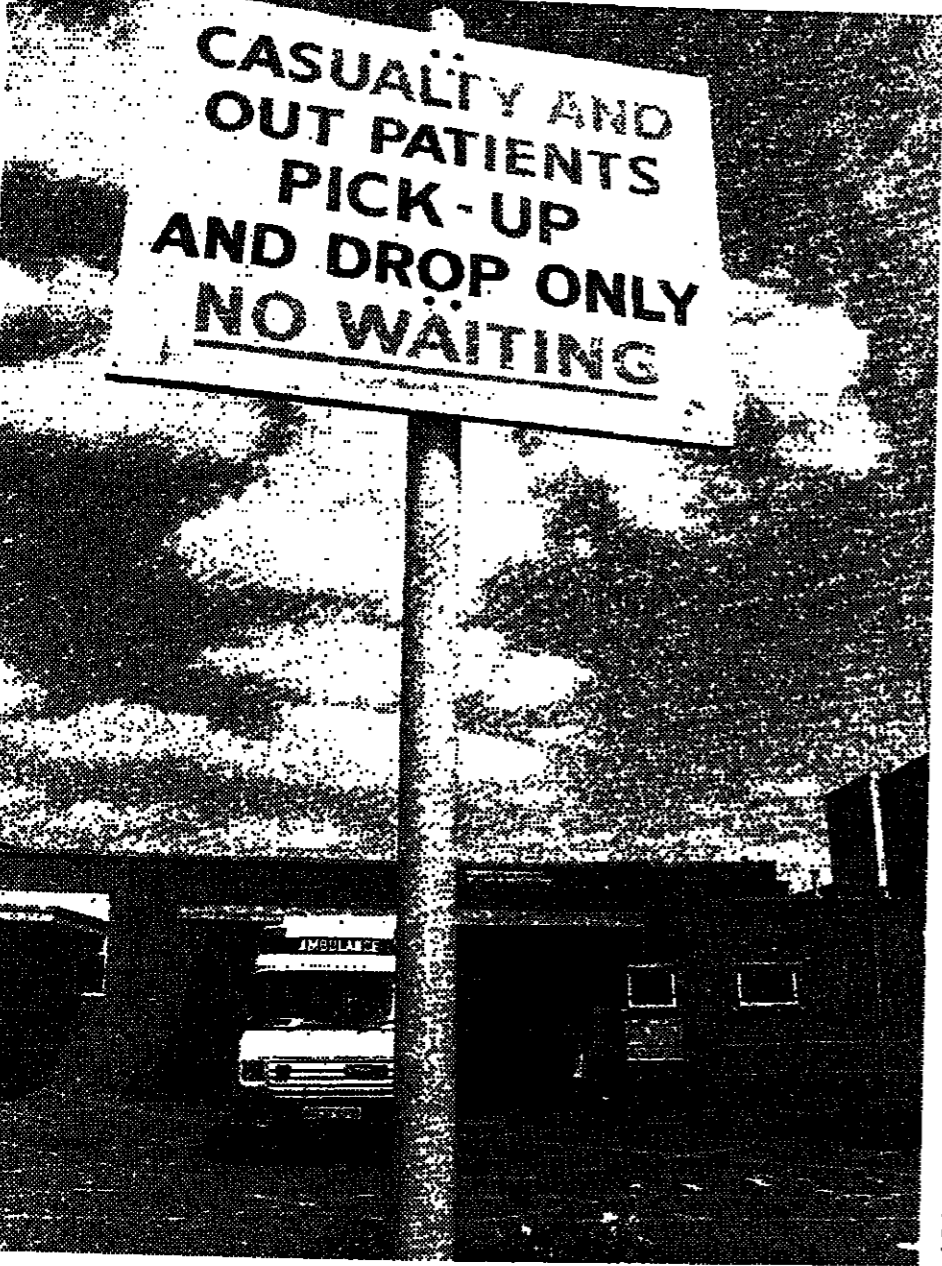
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Beavis Hillier

150/11/1996

John Major

A little local difficulty in north London ends in Government climbdown as Tories show growing appetite for rebellion



Edgware casualty unit, reprieved after a threatened Tory revolt



Threatening gestures... Four Tories, from left, Sir George Gardiner, Terry Dicks, George Walden and Sir Julian Critchley have all talked of bringing down the Government. But David Trimble, right, leader of the nine-strong Ulster Unionists, is the man who really has his finger on the election trigger

Michael White Political Editor

OPPOSITION MPs chortled and Conservative loyalists mouthed audible obscenities yesterday at the sight of Sir John Gort and Hugh Dykes holding ministers over a barrel to defend the casualty department at their local hospital in traffic-choked north London.

It is not that the two highly-experienced Tory backbenchers had done anything very wicked, though Sir John is regarded as unpredictable and Mr Dykes far too Europhile for current backbench fashion. Their crime was to be caught out.

Local MPs had been battling since 1983 to save some form of casualty department at Edgware hospital after a new trauma centre is built six miles away. Failing to get satisfac-

Emergency treatment for Edgware shows deals with ministers go on all the time. But are the numbers of Tory backbenchers behaving badly getting out of hand?

tory answers from Mr Dorrell again this month, the pair steadily raised the stakes in private exchanges, culminating in the ultimatum, revealed in yesterday's Daily Telegraph. Though ministers insist the final package agreed in 24 hours' intense negotiation on Tuesday night had been in the works — they never talk under duress — the two MPs had obviously won concessions.

Behind the scenes backbench MPs horse-trade with ministers all the time. Amend that bill. Build that bypass. Keep open that ward. Even retain the historic links between Britain and Northern

Ireland... Otherwise "I might be unable to support the Prime Minister in the division lobbies". Ministers and whips know who can be bought off, who can be bullied, and who means serious business — those members of the unofficial all-party Auldward Squad who don't mind unpopularity to press a popular constituency interest or a matter of high policy.

In this Parliament not-so-discreet rebellion has forced retreat on Post Office privatisation, on VAT on domestic fuel and countless little deals, legislative and local. Since the "whipless nine" — who

rebelled over Europe in December 1994 — forced John Major to readmit them to the party whip the appetite has grown. Two MPs defected, disgusted at the lack of concessions on the disabled rights bill. A third, Peter Thurnham, resigned the whip.

By leaving Mr Major with a notional majority of one, Mr Thurnham inadvertently stimulated a clutch of colleagues to become the potential "man who killed the Government". Threatened with de-selection by his Reliance party, one arch-sceptic, Sir George Gardiner, said he would cause a byelection if dropped.

On the pro-European side, Sir Julian Critchley said he might not support Mr Major in a vote of confidence. Buckingham's George Walden, also due to step down at the election, wearily mouthed similar sentiments of disdain over the xenophobic populism gripping the party.

Populist Terry Dicks voiced underlying loyalty to his premier when John Redwood threatened his political life. But the sight of Senator George Mitchell getting the Ulster peace talks job proved too much: he would vote Mr Major out.

The man who really has his finger on the nuclear trigger is David Trimble, whose nine Official Unionist votes buttress Mr Major in power. So far it suits him to keep it that way. But the day may come when something as big as the peace process or as small as a hospital ward could end it all.

999 case reveals PM plight

Alex Bellos on a hospital rebellion which highlighted Major's perilous Commons position

THE campaign to save Edgware hospital, in north London, has long been a thorn in the Government's side. It has contributed to the downfall of one health secretary, and has now dramatically highlighted the perilous state of John Major's Commons majority.

This week's threatened rebellion by backbenchers Sir John Gort (Hendon North) and Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) revived a row which began when the embattled Virginia Bottomley was accused of "moral cowardice" by Tory MPs for quietly announcing hospital closures in a parliamentary written statement.

Five London Tory MPs failed to support the party in May last year in a vote on her NHS reforms. The Government survived by 12 votes but it split the end of her tenure as health secretary, and she was moved to the Department of National Heritage in July, and was replaced by Stephen Dorrell.

The borough of Barnet is unusual in having two general hospitals: Barnet and Edgware. In 1993 Barnet Health Agency announced a five-year plan to scale down Edgware by shedding its accident and emergency department and moving patients to other hospitals.

Almost immediately Hands Off Our Hospital (HOOH) formed, starting a petition and organising many demonstrations. Five local Tory MPs — Sir John Gort, Sir Rhodes Boyson (Brent North), John Marshall (Hendon South) and Sir Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet) — pledged their support.

The campaign to save the hospital gained momentum, uniting all political parties and the community's religious leaders. Barnet council opposed the plans as did more than 300 local family doctors.

A critical point in the battle came last May when Sir John

voted against the Government. Mr Dykes was harassed for merely abstaining, and on one occasion was booed out of a local meeting.

When Mr Dorrell succeeded Mrs Bottomley last year he said he had no intention of revising her decision that only "minor accident treatment" carried out by GPs would be retained at the Edgware site.

In the same month a 59,000-signature petition was sent to the Prime Minister calling for its retention.

In order to save face in the growing crisis, a management team was drafted in during July to re-shape the health management structure covering the north-west London area, including Barnet.

In December Mr Dorrell agreed to meet HOOH campaigners. He told them again he could not reverse what his predecessor had done, but would look into the issue.

Six months later local pressure was building up against the local MPs as no decision had been forthcoming.

Kate Brown, HOOH co-chairwoman, said: "Several people pointed out at meetings that we had the government majority sitting in front of us. The suggestion for the MPs to break ranks was made repeatedly."

Last Wednesday, the HOOH committee went to the Commons to have a meeting with Sir John. Ms Brown said she was surprised when four other MPs, including Mr Dorrell, turned up. She said: "He told us that the health authority was looking to improve minor accident services. We said rubbish. There are no proposals. We said he was misinformed. We were applying the thumbscrews."

Mr Dykes said yesterday that he and Sir John had now won an assurance from Mr Dorrell that a "specially tailored" accident unit would be retained to serve the hospital's catchment area, manned 24 hours a day by qualified doctors with full medical back-up required to cope with emergencies.

Mr Dykes said: "I am delighted with what has been achieved... this has been a massive and prolonged campaign and I am proud to have been involved."

Leader comment, page 8

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Cocky entertainer tunes into his public

James Meek in Moscow reports on why the ultra-nationalist showman Zhirinovskiy is giving Russian pollsters a headache

THE heat filled the nearly empty square, parching the weeds between the flagstones and roasting the bandmen as they shifted the weight of their silver tubas, uncomfortable in their crumpled blue jackets. A ragged column of stupefied-looking teenage policemen shuffled into place. Onlookers began to wander up. Small-town Russia was waiting for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Yeltsin. If we voted for Zhirinovskiy we'd all be in the army," they said. Voters for Mr Zhirinovskiy are like baby pigeons or lottery winners; you know they must exist, but you never seem to come across them. The reluctance to admit supporting the chauvinist showman and his wild ideology gives Russia's insecure pollsters nightmares as the first round of presidential elections approaches. Mr Zhirinovskiy is supposed to come fifth. But the pollsters admit to a wide margin of error. That margin has a name: Vladimir Wolfovich Zhirinovskiy. "I am the third force," he said last week. "There is no other."

hovo Zuyev, to the band's rendition of The Slav Woman's Farewell, the traditional march for soldiers heading off to war, the square had filled with about 2,000 people of all ages. Mr Zhirinovskiy, tieless in a pale blue shirt and cream jacket, was sheltered from the sun by a European Union umbrella held by an aide. He began slowly, quietly. Then, after a couple of minutes, the volume and pitch increased dramatically and the juke-box of his brain began to play a random selection of popular tunes. "Russia does have an enemy: the United States of America! Our main enemy! It's preparing war against us. Nato troops will be at the borders of Russia by autumn."

"There are three million bandits in Russia today, and the army has one-and-a-half million soldiers. Is there any other country on earth which has more bandits than soldiers? That's democracy for you, that's their economy! I graduated from university with distinction. The other candidates got Ds and Cs at school and college. This has its meaning. Who quits school? The lazy! Fooligans!" The crowd cried "Right", applauding and laughing. There were many who had come simply to be entertained. Ivan Dezhukov, aged 57, a teacher, said he would probably vote for the Communists. "He speaks very cleverly. It's a show, it's always interesting to listen." Even those who say they will not vote for Mr Zhirinovskiy consider him an acceptable part of the political mainstream. One reason for his reduced

popularity is that many of his ideas have been adopted by his opponents. Odium for Nato is standard in the camps of President Yeltsin and the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov. Mr Yeltsin's 1994 decision to invade Chechnia "We respect Vladimir Wolfovich very much, but we are going to vote for Yeltsin," said Nina, aged 49, a businesswoman in the crowd. "Zhirinovskiy is out of the ordinary. The things he says, the way he behaves on television - it's entertainment." Alexander Semyonov, an engineer at a local factory who has not been paid for six months, said he would not vote for Mr Yeltsin, but could not decide between Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko party, Mr Zyuganov and Mr Zhirinovskiy. Mr Semyonov said he had voted for Mr Zhirinovskiy in 1993 and Mr Yavlinsky in 1995. He was now swinging back to the nationalists, but did not take Mr Zhirinovskiy's warmongering rhetoric seriously. "I don't want to have a gun in my hand or wash my feet in the Indian Ocean. Zhirinovskiy is just playing politics."

of the popular vote in parliamentary elections, he rammed across Europe like a rock star intoxicated with his first big contract. Terms such as "compromise" and "power-sharing" feature more often in his speeches now, but it is difficult to know the real Mr Zhirinovskiy: the hatred-preaching demagogic brawler with a touch of Mussolini-style fascist camp, or the alternative comedian mocking the whole business of politics. Paradoxically for a man who wants to be a dictator, he is the only candidate who dares to challenge the victim complex of the Russian voter. "It's time to stop looking for the guilty ones. You're guilty yourselves. Each of you is guilty," he told the crowd. "You go to the elections and you give them power and they start to deceive you and you start to think what's all this? It's you!"

Mr Zhirinovskiy still wants to give the secret police powers to round up suspected criminals and shoot them en masse. His economic programme consists of raking together a money mountain of \$50 billion (\$36 billion) from esoteric sources. Voters have watched him half-strangling a woman MP in parliament, throwing juice in a rival's face during a television talk show, nuzzling Cicciolina, the Italian porn star, and indulging in sleazy banquets featuring his own brand of vodka and champagne. Not all the electorate is put off by his behaviour. Vladimir Borisov, an engineer, said of the juice-throwing episode: "He did it openly. They do a lot of filthy things secretly, behind people's backs." Mr Zhirinovskiy has lost some confidence since his halcyon days two years ago when, after winning a quarter

of the popular vote in parliamentary elections, he rammed across Europe like a rock star intoxicated with his first big contract. Terms such as "compromise" and "power-sharing" feature more often in his speeches now, but it is difficult to know the real Mr Zhirinovskiy: the hatred-preaching demagogic brawler with a touch of Mussolini-style fascist camp, or the alternative comedian mocking the whole business of politics. Paradoxically for a man who wants to be a dictator, he is the only candidate who dares to challenge the victim complex of the Russian voter. "It's time to stop looking for the guilty ones. You're guilty yourselves. Each of you is guilty," he told the crowd. "You go to the elections and you give them power and they start to deceive you and you start to think what's all this? It's you!"

Unions combat Kohl's cuts

UP TO half a million Germans are expected to take to the streets and parks of Bonn tomorrow to vent their anger at Chancellor Helmut Kohl's austerity drive in the biggest protests witnessed by the post-war republic. As trade union leaders warn of strike waves and industrial unrest surpassing the riots in France last winter, Mr Kohl's dilemma is forcing through budget cuts to meet the criteria for joining a single European currency are made worse by opposition moves to wreck the package in the upper house. Union leaders expect some 250,000 people, and perhaps twice that figure, for tomorrow's mass protest - "For Jobs and Social Justice". Mr Kohl is bent on saving more than \$30 billion this year and next, by cutting unemployment and social security benefits and sick pay, raising the retirement age, freezing child benefit and imposing a two-year pay freeze in the huge public sector. The aim is to avert a worsening public finances crisis and, above all, come in below the public debt and budget deficit ceilings required for entry to the proposed single European currency. But the Kohl scheme faces increasing problems on all fronts. Yesterday, unions and employers agreed an arbitration deal in the months-long public sector pay dispute, awarding the 3.5 million employees a 1.9 per cent pay rise next year and one-off payments of \$130 this year.

The government's insistence on public sector pay freeze was an integral element of the cuts plan, which will now need revision. Mr Kohl was locked in talks yesterday with the heads of government of Germany's 16 federal states on how to share the burden of the cuts. The states are represented by the upper house or Bundesrat in Bonn, which is controlled by the opposition Social Democrats. Much of the Kohl package can be blocked by the upper house, and regional Social Democrat leaders say they intend to do just that. "The working people can't be disadvantaged," a key regional Social Democrat baron, Gerhard Schroeder, said yesterday. Reinhard Hoepfner, the Social Democrat prime minister of Saxony-Anhalt, said the Kohl package had no chance of passing the Bundesrat. Economic stagnation and plunging tax revenues resulting from the 10 per cent unemployment rate, have also narrowed the government's room for manoeuvre. On Wednesday, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, sought to talk the states into making fiscal austerity legally binding. Mr Waigel, who is the author of the contentious European Union "stability pact" idea, proposed a national stability pact, legally compelling the 16 states and the federal government not to overstep debt and deficit ceilings. The message is that such enforcement is needed for Germany, Europe's monetary union cheerleader, to qualify for the single currency.



A better catch... Workers at the bankrupt Gdansk shipyard in Poland go fishing yesterday on the second day of a 48-hour sit-in strike in protest against a government decision to shut the yard

West pushes for early Bosnia poll

BOSNIA is in danger of permanent partition between the Muslim-Croat Federation and Serb separatists if vital elections are not held on time, the international mediator Carl Bildt warned yesterday. Speaking in Florence at the start of the conference reviewing the Dayton peace plan six months into Nato's year-long mandate, Mr Bildt insisted that it was better to hold elections in imperfect conditions than to delay them. "The longer this process is delayed, the more difficult it will be, and the greater the risk that partition could not be overcome and the peace agreement on this vital point will be unfulfilled," he said. Forty governments and international organisations are expected to back him today by announcing September 14 - the last possible date - as the election day, amid mounting debate over whether they can be free and fair. The final decision lies with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Osce), which will be supervising the poll, but it is under heavy pressure from Western governments not to postpone it. Mr Bildt told the conference: "The forces of ethnic separation are stronger than the forces of ethnic reintegration... Without a fundamental improvement in respect for... basic human rights, the peace process itself runs into severe difficulty." The most divisive issue is the international community's policy towards indicted war criminals, and in particular the Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. The president of the United Nations war crimes tribunal, Antonio Cassese, called on the 60,000-strong peace implementation force

(I-For) to apprehend them as soon as possible. And in Brussels a Nato official said I-For would be given clearer instructions to track down suspected war criminals. "I-For will do more to help secure the proper environment for elections," a British official said. "There will be more troops on the ground to ensure that conditions for freedom of movement exist. They will be more visible and that will make it more difficult for Karadzic and Mladic to move around." The United States defence secretary, William Perry, defended the role of I-For yesterday. Speaking in Brussels, he said Bosnia was enjoying its first peaceful spring in five years. But he warned that the peacekeepers were in for a "long, tough summer". The Dayton agreement split Bosnia into two roughly equal entities: the Republic of Srpska and a Muslim-Croat Federation. But they were both meant to form part of a single state, Bosnia and Herzegovina, represented at the national level by joint institutions. Six months after its deployment, I-For has succeeded in demilitarising the front lines and coaxing the opposing armies back to barracks, but Mr Bildt and other civilian agencies have been far less successful in promoting reintegration. Only a handful of more than 2 million refugees have been able to cross the ethnic boundaries created by the war. The World Bank said yesterday it would urge international donors to pay out promised aid money to make sure there is a viable peace dividend before the elections. The international community has pledged \$1.2 billion for reconstruction in 1996, but the bank said in a report several key donors had not committed their funds.

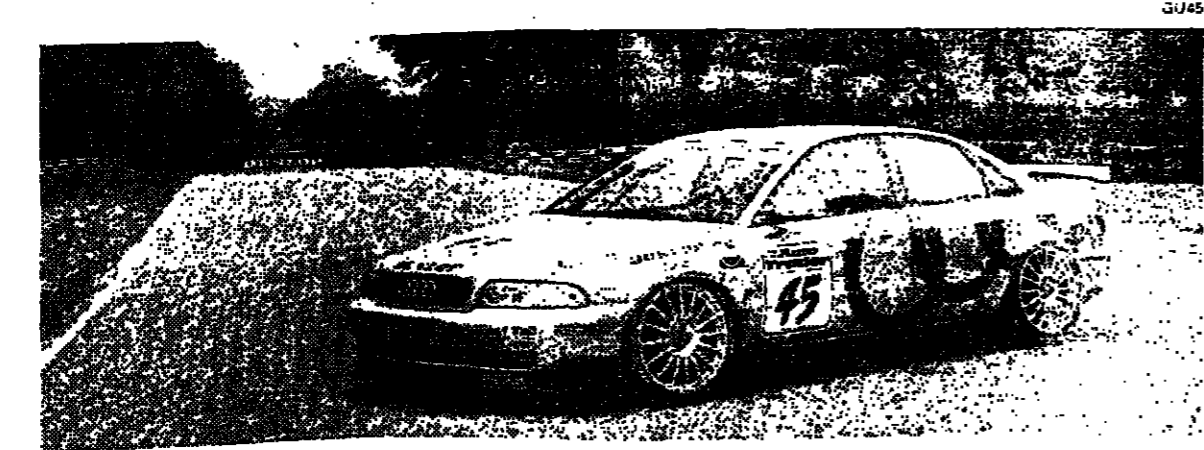
German politician embroiled in spying row on 'long-haired lefties'

THE island resort of Rügen immortalised by Christopher Isherwood in Goodbye to Berlin is at the centre of a spying row that has prompted allegations of a return to the methods of the East German Stasi secret police. Fifty-six tourism workers claim that an intelligence officer from the state government of Mecklenburg asked them to report sightings of "long-haired lefties" on the island. Paul Bolle, director of a spa resort, said: "She asked me to report if politically dubious people appeared on

our camp site. She gave me her own telephone number in the interior ministry." Mr Bolle refused to co-operate. Rüdiger Gell, the Christian Democrat interior minister in the state capital, Schwerin, said the intelligence officer had never asked for information about political activists. But he justified the operation as part of the fight against rightwing extremism. But Green Party politicians received a recording of a telephone conversation between Mr Bolle and the intelligence officer, flatly contradicting the minister's statement. It includes a specific reference to "lefties who have longish hair or that kind of outfit".

World news in brief

First Lady 'withheld crucial Whitewater documents'
HILLARY CLINTON will be accused of concealing key evidence from federal investigators, according to a leak from the Senate committee investigating the Whitewater affair, writes Jonathan Freedland in Washington. The allegation marks the most direct charge yet against the first couple. A report in yesterday's New York Daily News claimed Mrs Clinton would be named as the only suspect in the disappearance of legal billing records, which mysteriously surfaced in the White House private residence in January. The documents - which reveal that Mrs Clinton did 60 hours' work for the Arkansas financial institution at the heart of the Whitewater affair - had been sought by investigators for two years. The Republican-led committee, which is due to deliver its conclusions next week, has interviewed more than 300 aides and White House officials to find out how the documents had come to be in a restricted area of the Clintons' private quarters.



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Iraq bars arms team again

United Nations arms inspectors were barred yesterday from two more sites near Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, said.

The team had been barred from two sites on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr Ekeus said all the facilities had belonged to government bodies which concealed documents or weapons. - Reuters.

Doctor in court
Francis Mitterand's former doctor went on trial yesterday, charged with violating his oath of secrecy by revealing that the late French president had had cancer since 1982. - AP.

Activist jailed
A secret Palestinian military tribunal yesterday jailed the Hamas rights activist Eyad Sarraj for another 15 days for allegedly assaulting a policeman. Mr Sarraj denied assault and drug charges and said he had been beaten since he was detained on Sunday. - AP.

Turkish Cypriots snub the Queen

A COCKTAIL party at the British high commissioner's residence in Cyprus to celebrate the Queen's birthday turned sour after more than 300 of the guests failed to arrive, writes Chris Drake in Nicosia.

They were all Turkish Cypriots, banned from attending at the last moment by their leader, Rauf Denktaş, in what international diplomats described as a deliberate snub. Armed guards at the crossing point on Nicosia's "Green Line" refused to open the barrier to let the crowds of smartly-dressed businessmen and their wives walk to the Greek Cypriot side for fish and chips and British beer.

Burma clampdown
Burma's military government erected hoardings across the country denouncing Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy movement yesterday, as the official media repeated calls for her to stop disturbing the country. - Reuters.

Banger and splash
Ships were alerted and bomb disposal experts rushed to defuse a "bomb" bobbing about in Hong Kong harbour. It turned out to be an enormous sausage, the South China Morning Post said yesterday. - Reuters.

Haile Selassie 'murdered'

HAILE SELASSIE'S doctor said yesterday that the former Ethiopian emperor did not die of natural causes, writes Alice Martin in Addis Ababa.

He was testifying at a tribunal against the country's former Marxist rulers who are accused of genocide and of murdering the emperor. Dr Asrat Woldeyes described his first visit to Haile Selassie in custody and said there was a mounted machinegun aimed at the emperor's camp bed.

"Haile Selassie said he was not sick and did not need a doctor, but his daughter, Princess Tenagne-Work, claimed her father was not sleeping and was refusing food," Dr Asrat said.

Jailed Ershad brews freedom deal as coalition price
yesterday from Wednesday's election, the Awami League, whose anti-corruption campaign brought down the previous government earlier this year, extended its lead. But it was still unclear if the party, led by Sheikh Hasina, would win enough seats to control parliament or whether it would have to try to form a coalition. Agencies in Dhaka

As more results emerged

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June 14 1996

US sanctions loom as congress clears president

Colombia drops Samper charges

Mary Matheson in Bogotá

IN A MIDNIGHT vote, Colombia's congress decided to halt impeachment proceedings against President Ernesto Samper over accusations that he accepted money from drug traffickers.

The decision is almost certain to bring swift retaliation from the United States, which had threatened to impose sanctions if Mr Samper were absolved.

In a vote of more than two to one on Wednesday night, the 154 representatives judged there was insufficient evidence formally to accuse Mr Samper of taking \$4 million from the Cali drug cartel for his 1994 election campaign.

The decision came as no surprise in Colombia, where the congressional investigation was largely viewed as a farce. "Those who absolved the president are politicians who received money from the cartels and committed the same crimes as the president," said Ingrid Betancourt,

a member of congress and a fierce critic of Mr Samper within his own Liberal Party.

Twenty-four members of congress are under investigation over ties to drug trafficking, and seven are already behind bars. In addition, several received money from the Liberal Party central campaign funds. To condemn the president would be to condemn themselves.

Mr Samper, who said he was "satisfied" with the vote, must now try to regain political legitimacy. "It doesn't matter what the congress decides, the political crisis will continue," said Andrés Franco Vasco, a lecturer in politics at the Javeriana University in the capital, Bogotá.

Opposition to Mr Samper has grown since January, when his former campaign manager accused him of taking the drug money. Business leaders, some conservative congress members and the Church have stepped up pressure for him to resign. Supporters of the army are also thought to be disgruntled. Businessmen are consider-

ing going on strike to try to bring the country to a halt. The last business strike, in 1957, brought down Colombia's last military dictator.

Mr Samper was expected to make a televised speech late yesterday, outlining a new offensive against drug trafficking and a solution to the political crisis. He may announce a government of national unity. But his critics have made it clear they are unwilling to join a coalition.

He may instead let the people decide if he should stay in power by calling a referendum. Latest opinion polls show 31 per cent think he should stay, and 28 per cent believe he should resign.

Washington's reaction will be crucial. In an election year, the Clinton administration cannot afford to be faint-hearted on drugs. The US has already withdrawn the visas of two top Colombian public officials.

But a harsh reaction from the US government could fuel anti-American sentiment and boost Mr Samper's poll ratings.



Borne free... Juan Carlos Gaviria, the kidnapped brother of the former Colombian president Cesar Gaviria, was freed in return for his captors' passage to Cuba. "His muscles had not moved in two months," a policeman said. PHOTOGRAPH: MEREDITH DAVENPORT

Brazil's poor pay bloody price in battle for land

Garvin O'Toole

WITH his last breath, Oziel Alves Pereira — the initials of Brazil's Sem Terra (Landless) Movement — before he became the latest victim in a low-intensity war racking Brazil.

The killing of Pereira and at least 18 other MST demonstrators staging a protest near Marabá in the north-eastern state of Para has become emblematic of a broader struggle over land in Latin America.

Forensic reports suggest the 17-year-old was shot execution-style, at point-blank range, after state police dispersed the protesters.

A local priest denounced the killings as premeditated — a claim strengthened when a man identifying himself as a local farmer alleged on Globo television that landowners had paid police to rid them of squatters.

The massacre in late April has dramatically exposed the contradiction between President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's commitment to social reform — including land distribution — and to modernising the economy. The process of rural modernisation is land intensive — and excludes the rural poor.

Founded 12 years ago, MST is the most well-organised of groups throughout Latin America which have long advocated the occupation of unproductive or idle land as a solution to rural poverty. Its



Other worlds

tractable land use, and the social needs of Latin America's 150 million rural dwellers. MST's rightwing critics deride its efforts as a futile attempt to recreate inefficient subsistence farming.

Outside Brazil, nowhere has the market outlook prevailed more than in Mexico, where deregulation of tenure was one of the sparks that ignited the Chiapas rebellion.

Tension over land has been heightened by the region's broader economic transformation, in particular the removal of import barriers. Indigenous Mexicans face the prospect of eating tortillas made from United States maize, and highland Peruvians already eat potatoes from Europe.

The most dramatic symbol in Brazil of the clash between market and social agendas came in January in the form of decree 1775, which exposes previously demarcated Indian lands to legal claims by rapacious corporations.

Mr Cardoso gave an unequivocal electoral commitment in 1994 to tackle inequality. But Para has fuelled suspicions that his commitment to social reform was merely a footnote to his macroeconomic imperatives.

While the small pace of social reform may say more about the scale of inequality in Brazil and its political system, the outcry over the massacre has confirmed that the high hopes that accompanied Mr Cardoso's accession have evaporated.

Stung by criticisms, he has doubled the budget for an existing land reform project, dusted off land reform legislation languishing in congress, moved to tackle police impunity and unveiled a social spending package.

But while Mr Cardoso's rediscovery of a social agenda may be the most fitting tribute to Pereira's sacrifice, it is a gesture unlikely to address the irreconcilable clash in the countryside between market and social demands.

• Ten farm workers were killed in a shootout after 300 landless peasants occupied a farm in Maranhao state, northern Brazil, on Monday, a state security official said yesterday. The state governor, Roseana Sarney, said prescriptions aiming to maximise the productivity of ex-

Demarcated Indian areas are exposed to legal claims by rapacious corporations

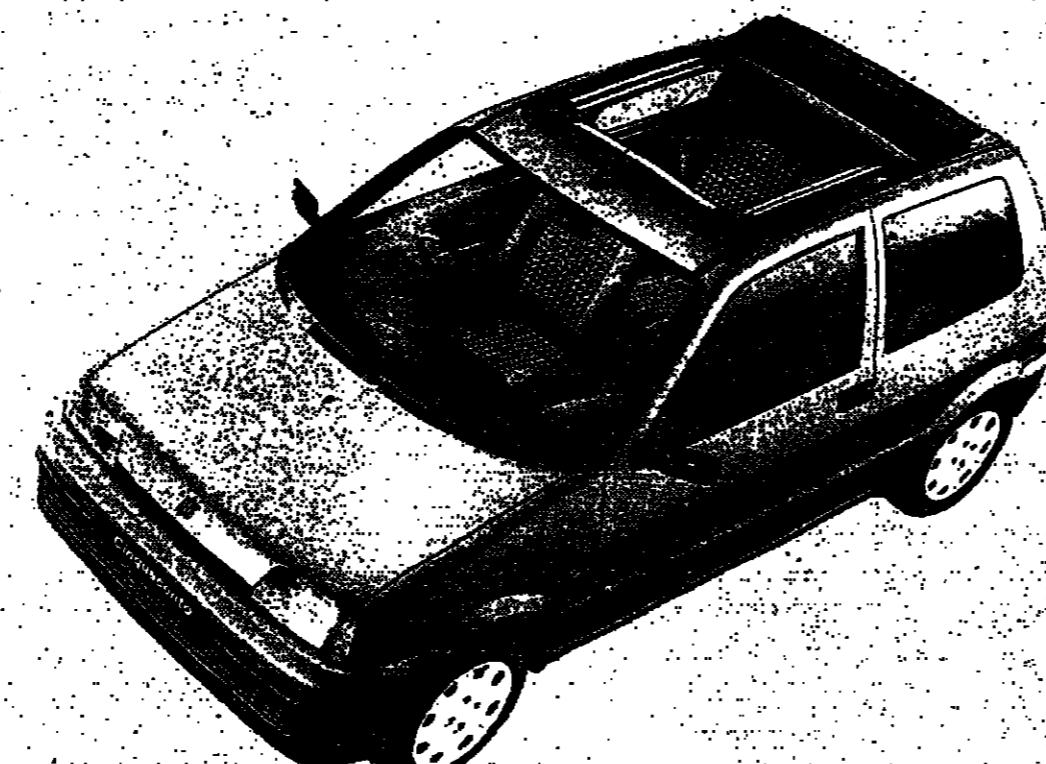
leaders say there are 5 million landless peasants and labourers in Brazil.

The concentration of land in Brazil is staggering: 1 per cent of landowners control 44 per cent of productive farmland, while 83 per cent of farmers eke out a living on 2.6 per cent of the land.

Inequality, epitomised by entrenched landowning elites, has been exacerbated by the emergence of vast estates, spurred by federal incentives, which ostensibly seek to exploit economies of scale for export production. Many, however, serve as a simple hedge against inflation.

The Para massacre occurred in an area dominated by vast mining and livestock projects, laying bare the issue at the heart of the debate over land use — that unchecked commercial development fuels social conflict.

This debate can be seen as a struggle for the soul of agrarian reform between market prescriptions aiming to maximise the productivity of ex-



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£25,000	13.8%	£671.70	£33,241.60
£30,000	13.8%	£806.04	£39,890.00
£35,000	13.8%	£940.38	£46,538.40
£40,000	13.8%	£1,074.72	£53,186.80
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When care is a dirty word
Ministers must do more to wipe out child abuse

MINISTERS needed to move on three fronts to resolve the crisis in children's homes. Yesterday dawned with promising headlines of an angry Prime Minister, who had "read the riot act" to cabinet colleagues and was ready to order a national inquiry into abuse in children's homes.

care and counselling. Perhaps the most cruel irony is that the biggest single category — about one third of the intake — has already been sexually abused and removed from their families for their own safety only for some to be abused again when placed in care.

Why the numbers don't add up
Heseltine's audit of Britain is thoroughly worthwhile

MICHAEL HESELTINE was quick to put a political spin on his third white paper on competitiveness yesterday, but he should not have needed to. It is a thoroughly worthwhile and long overdue exercise examining the roots of Britain's strengths and weaknesses.

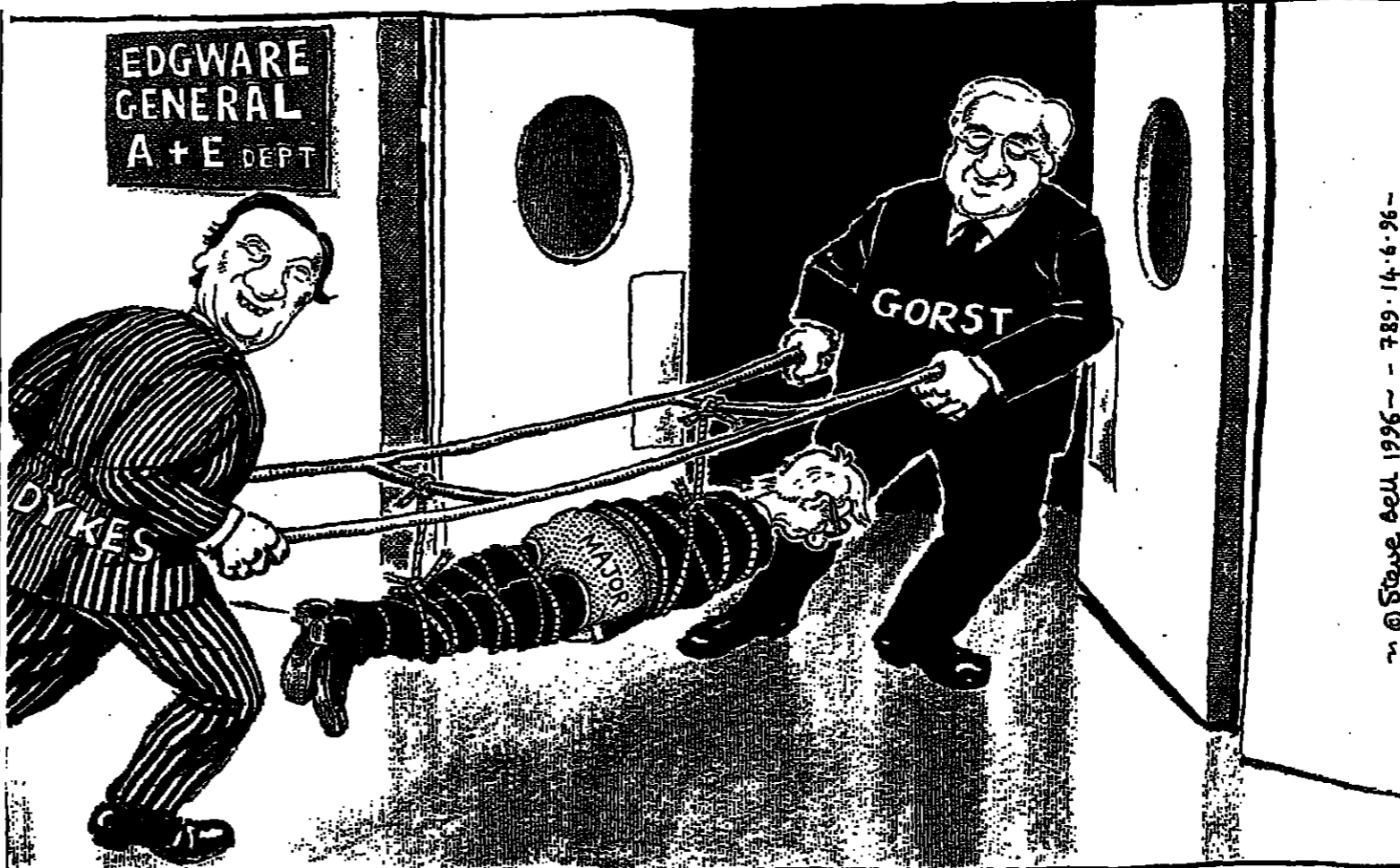
country — which could transform the prospects for small companies. The most contentious part of the exercise is the skills audit, which was rather less complimentary to Britain than the deputy prime minister claimed in the Commons.

The pork barrels of Edgware

A majority of one enables every MP to rule the Government

QUESTION: when is an accident and emergency unit not an accident and emergency unit? Answer: when it is in Edgware. In Edgware, an A&E unit magically becomes a fully-equipped casualty unit with nurses and doctors on hand for 24 hours a day, but from which patients may need to be moved when their condition is stable.

attempts to patch up an agreed line, will doubtless be further discredited to an already unravelling government. But isn't it time they all grew up?



Letters to the Editor

The bill comes in for children

IT SEEMS chilling that every one of the country's leading children's organisations who wrote to you (Letters, June 12) equates minimising distress to children in family break-up with making sure they can "get started on their new lives" within about 12 months.

A lesson in Birtspcak

ANNE Karpf's predictions about the future of Network Radio (Sound off, vision on, June 12) are not what the future holds for radio at the BBC.

radio production is not for trading. And then there are the ultimate quality controllers of the BBC, the teams of radio producers and production staff.

Drinking's coming home

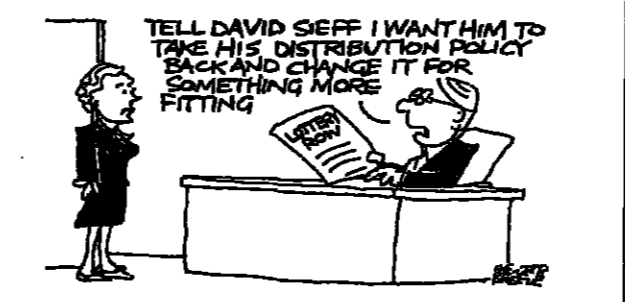
NEVER cease to be astonished at the general ignorance of the dangers and ramifications of abusing alcohol (Angry Venables turns on 'traitors', June 12).

Firstly, the radio channel controllers, under the Director of Radio, Matthew Bannister, will continue, as they do now, to commission the best possible radio programmes from the best producers. That will not change.

Radio cannot, and never will be, television without pictures. It will continue to be its own special medium within an environment that is properly updating itself to recognise a changing world outside.

THOSE such as Anne Karpf who allege that there is something new about separating commissioning from production at the BBC have failed to read their Birtspcak papers from January 1993 onwards.

In the 20 years that I have been treating alcoholics, I number among them 27 former professional footballers. They all, to a man, talked of the macho image they were happy to follow, where the performance on the field was often overshadowed by the performance afterwards in the bar, and stated categorically that they could see retrospectively that they never reached their full potential due to alcohol.



Job prospect

YOU correctly report the Civil Service's goal of appealing to the best graduates from all sources (Lure of Whitehall, top jobs calls for university elite, June 13). However, you are mistaken to suppose that there is any shortage of numbers applying now. In fact, competition for fast-stream places is so strong that last year only about 2 per cent of the 12,600 applicants could be offered jobs.

Mr Major's uncharitable act

IT IS no surprise that John Major's and Virginia Bottomley's concerns about lottery funding for gay and lesbian groups accurately expressed their wishy-washy bigotry (PM blunders with lottery grants jibe, June 12) but there is also a wider concern.

LAST November, attacks on the National Lottery Charities Board were centred around black and refugee groups: this time the Prime Minister has added as targets gay men, lesbian, and prostitutes etc. His comments can only fuel the discrimination that such groups are seeking to alleviate.

Pay day

THERE is a growing conviction in the churches that the millennium should be marked by a concerted effort to reduce significantly, if not to remit, the crippling debts of the poorer countries of our world (IMF holds gold key for Third World, June 10).

Yet Terry Venables states that he is at a loss to understand why his team was so lethargic — to quote him, "dead on their feet" — in their recent match against Switzerland. It is well known within footballing circles that both the Italians and the Germans are happy for the English teams to continue with their gung-ho attitude towards alcohol. As long as we do, we pose no serious threat to them on a football field.

Suffering, sin and dinosaurs

CAN Paul Davies (Letters, June 11) be serious? He states the Christian dogma that "we can be free of suffering through the redemption offered by Jesus Christ". Since when has believing in Christianity ensured anyone's safety from disease, bereavement, poverty, injury, etc? He also cites the extraordinary belief that suffering is "the consequence of sin". Sin is usually thought to be peculiar to humankind but all living things now suffer.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Heeding the tides, we crossed to Lindisfarne with the intention of being marooned on this demilitarised for the obligatory five hours. Reversing the usual tourist ritual, we thus escape the visitors, who come in coaches and stay here only when the causeway is clear.

CHRISTIANITY persists

Thanks to a lethal combination of a terrible threat, eternal damnation to those who don't believe, and a glorious promise, eternal bliss, to those who do. Neither can ever be shown to be hollow.

beaches. Emmanuel serves as a warning to ships of the rocks around Holy Island; past this point you go into dunes and twisting tracks, bordered by flailing tresses of marram grass. A lone birdwatcher squatted, peering through binoculars, and a fulmar petrel swooped within a few feet of my face. This bird looks gull-like but is a member of the family Procellariidae, whilst the various gulls belong to the Laridae group. Fulmars, like kittiwakes, are largely oceanic birds and come ashore only to nest. Fulmars usually choose unattractive sites for procreation: I doubt if any nest on Bellouze Crags here. Nowadays, there are too many people clamouring over the house, so the castle, a Lutyns treasure restored by the National Trust, is closed. We explore the foreshore among curlews and other wading birds, sitting through seaweed with black-backed gulls following us. They clearly associate humans with the tasty morsels they leave behind.

BETWEEN them, Mark Lawson (God is not dead, he was only voted out, June 10) and Lewis Wolpert (Letters, May 31) have stimulated

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Diary Dan Atkinson

KIM BOWELLS, one-time mega-militant mine-picket... turned chronically-capitalistic Friedmanite industry spokesperson...

Class wars unique to Britain

Commentary Peter Preston

HERE is one interesting fact that unites France, Singapore, Germany, Japan and the US (lined up against Britain today in the educational skills department)...

stalled the change that was Chirac without thought of changing its schooling and killing in any meaningful way. Germany and Japan are models of consistency...

It didn't, of course, last. She told a special Cabinet meeting last year that education remained a shot in the polling foot for the Tories...

How dare they dig into my private life!

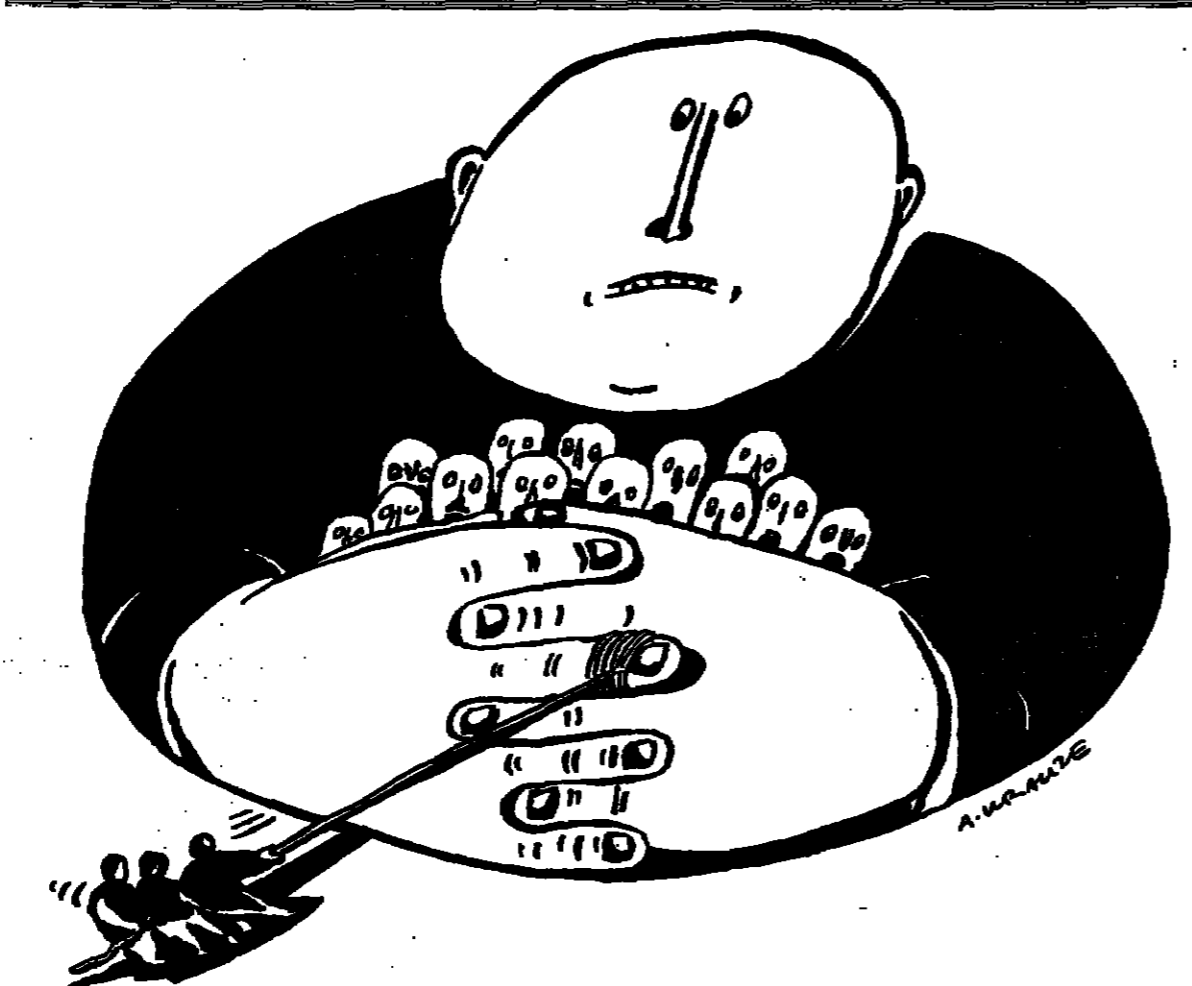


Bel Littlejohn

YOU'VE had your fun, guys. So now just cut it out — OK? It's been a hard decision, very hard...

different from the tradition of concerned, thoughtful journalism into which I was socialised. Back in the 1970s and '80s, when my award-winning investigative Guardian column 'Bel Littlejohn Sniffs At...' was required reading for everyone on the left...

SOMETHING is jinxing Tom King's Minehead party tonight to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of his election by the voters of Bridgewater...



Too little, too late

The Government's plans to combat child sex abuse are far too narrow, argues Bea Campbell. What we really need is a Children's Commissioner to fight their corner

LEST we forget, it was not a child but an adult who denounced the Cheshire and Merseyside child sex abuse investigations. Ten years ago children tried to tell their story about the first man to go down in Cheshire, Alan Langshaw...

NSPCC's figures on the scale of crimes against children. Professor Jean La Fontaine reassures the Department of Health that there was no satanic abuse in Britain...

investigations in Clwyd, like Cheshire and Merseyside, the Beck case in Leicester, Kinross in Northern Ireland, the failed New Barns trail and the successful Langshaw trail in Cheshire...

Eventually, the pressure became too much. It was when I realised with a start that I had made a Fresh Chive and Semolina Summer Salad completely forgetting to add the mixed pine-nuts that I knew the time had come to speak out...

I AM proud, for instance, of the awards I picked up for my needle-sharp coverage of the Parkinson Affair. Here was a man who said one thing in public and did quite another in private...

And what have we sunk to? A tabloid hack telephoning a senior Guardian columnist and respected member of the Scott Trust in order to dig up dirt on her alleged quote unquote 'affair'...

Better wed than dead?

Anita Roddick calls for equal protection from domestic violence for married and unmarried women in the Family Law Bill

IT IS all well and good MPs getting hot under the collar about the moral debate surrounding divorce, but while they are blustering hot air about the 'trends of society coming away in our hands'...

domestic violence 'have not given each other the commitment involved in marriage'. I find this staggering, as well as insulting. Compare the woman who has been living with her partner for 20 years...



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Edward Bernstein

Pathfinder in the Woods

THE DEATH of Eddie Bernstein at 91 removes one of the most celebrated of financial and monetary experts of our time and the last major link with Bretton Woods.

While not the architect of the post-war international financial system agreed at Bretton Woods, he played a key part in the preparation of the plan devised by Harry White and backed by the Americans in opposition to Keynes's more ambitious proposals for a Clearing Union. In the negotiations Bernstein acted as American spokesman and was both technical adviser and executive secretary of the US delegation.

In the last few days of the conference he was also appointed chairman of the Special Committee on Unsettled Questions. His great gift was to come up with solutions to the most difficult financial problems and to expound them with great lucidity and conciseness. He thought that "there was nothing like being able to write" and he himself could think and write quickly, clearly and well.

Keynes, who was not happy to see the White Plan supersede his own, began by venting some of his frustration on Bernstein, regarding him (wrongly) as the source of White's leading ideas and describing him, in a letter to the Treasury, as "a regular little rabbi, a reader out of the Talmud". But by the end of the conference Keynes was singing his praises "as the hero of Bretton Woods, the economist who made everything clear".

After the conference it was Bernstein who wrote all the Congressional committee reports on Bretton Woods, as he did also later on the British loan agreement. He also helped to guide the Bretton Woods Agreement through Congress over the objections of the banking community.

Bernstein was the youngest

of three children of an insurance agent in New Jersey — the only boy in the family and the only child to be sent to university. From an early age he wanted to be an economist, or perhaps a journalist, specialising in economics, and at 16 he had already acquired a grounding in the subject at school, on which he drew in an essay competition on The Port Of New York, winning the prize of \$25.

At the University of Chicago, where his teachers included regularly with graduate students and from his second year took graduate classes almost exclusively. He spent a year at the University of Chicago, where his teachers included regularly with graduate students and from his second year took graduate classes almost exclusively. He spent a year at the University of Chicago, where his teachers included regularly with graduate students and from his second year took graduate classes almost exclusively.

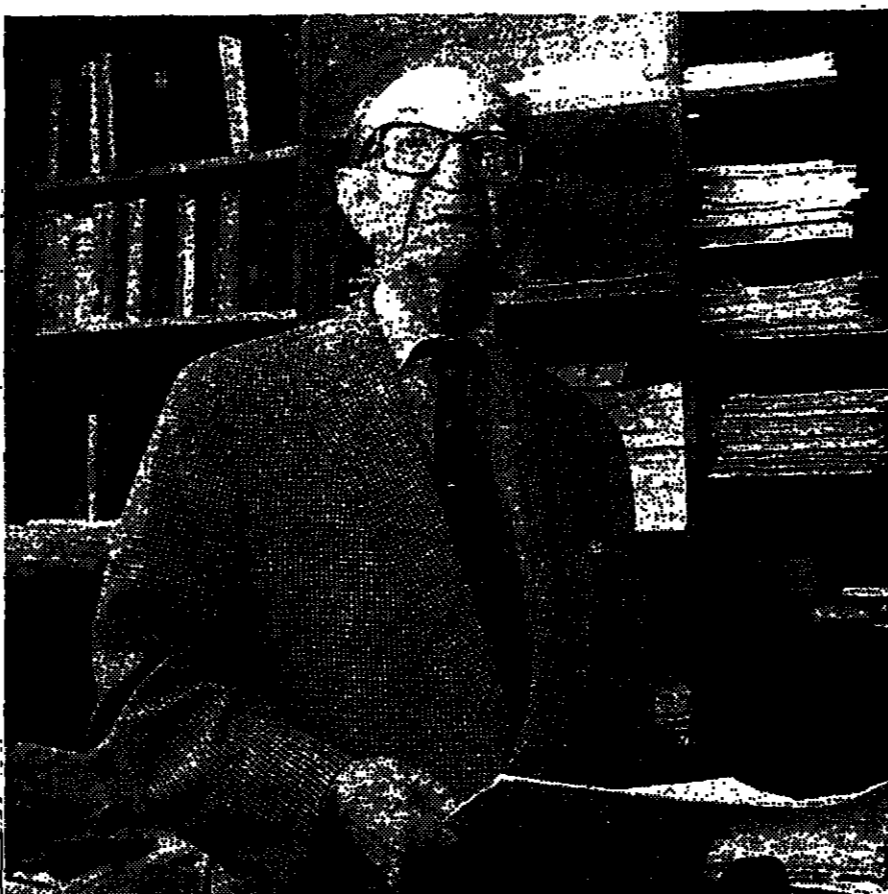
and the Economic System — which attracted much attention and to which he often referred later as giving expression to new thoughts on the operation of a monetary standard.

In 1940 he left academic life, meaning at first to spend only the summer months with Harry White in the Treasury but staying to become assistant director of monetary research. The three summer months were employed in drafting answers to a long questionnaire on monetary policy from the Senate Banking Committee. Bernstein liked a volume of 600 pages with the answers but by the time they were submitted the committee had lost interest and they were never printed.

When he agreed to stay he became responsible for research on inflation and the balance of payments and, when the US entered the war, was given the job of economic adviser on foreign funds control — ie, exchange control.

From 1942 he was also working on plans for the post-war financial system, supervising the technical studies for Harry White's plan for an international stabilisation fund. This brought him into the succession of international conferences in 1942-43 leading up to Bretton Woods.

AMONG his early activities in the Treasury was an attempt to predict the rise in prices in wartime. Although he regarded himself as a monetarist, he based his answer on the likely rise in wages and raw material prices in the light of experience in recovering from past recessions and concluded that, although there would be a large rise in prices after the war, wholesale prices were likely to rise by only about 33 per cent during the war. Milton Friedman, a true monetarist, brought to work on the same question, concluded that



Bernstein... typed his dissertation on public utilities in the nude

prices would rise eightfold on the assumption of a large budget deficit financed mainly by the banks. No such increase occurred during the war.

After the war, Bernstein moved from the Treasury to the newly founded International Monetary Fund as director of research. This was after Jean Monnet had asked him pointedly who was going to run the IMF and Keynes had told him that he looked forward to his becoming director of research. He remained with the IMF until 1958, when he found that he could not get on with the new managing director, Per Jacobson. He had built up a staff, produced many papers developed a system of work and floated two periodicals, International Financial Statistics and Staff Papers. He had been a popular member of the staff and was missed. There was even a love to bring him back as deputy managing director.

After his retirement he turned down offers of academic employment and, when central banks wrote to him to say how much they would miss the papers he wrote at the IMF, offered to continue them on a subscription basis. He then founded a company, EMB Ltd, which issued two research reports monthly and a weekly or fortnightly letter on economic developments in the US. This service he continued for 23 years with about half the papers written by regular contributors from other countries.

One problem he discussed at an early stage was the danger of a shortage of international liquidity. He suggested that the Fund should enter into an agreement with its principal members under which they would commit themselves to lend standard amounts to the Fund when needed in order to deal with serious payments difficulties. The proposal was accepted and came into effect as the General Arrangements to Borrow in 1962. A few years later he also came forward with a proposal for reserve assets that ultimately took shape as SDRs.

Many other examples could

Haika Grossman

The faith of a ghetto fighter

GIVEN the choice, Haika Grossman, who has died aged 76, would have been the ideal candidate for the Arab voters in the recent Israeli elections. This was a highly political woman whose philosophy shouted for her fellow Jews to get out of the occupied territories — without reservation.

But that would have been an over-simplification. Her calls for an Arab state came from a deep belief that it was essential for Israel's own sake and was for its neighbours. Zionism was a movement of humanity. And she was not just a committed Zionist but one who had been willing to die for her principles.

In 1939, as a 19-year-old in her native Poland, she defined Zionism as preserving Jewish life, not simply trying to escape to what was then Palestine. Despite having an exit visa to leave occupied Poland, she chose to remain and to organise whatever resistance was possible. She was one of the few survivors.

She could not have foreseen what the Holocaust would mean but she knew that few were willing to fight the Germans on their own terms — and she had to join those who could. She soon learnt the effect of the Nazi death machine. Both her parents were murdered — her father shot, her mother dying in the Majdanek death camp.

In the summer of 1943, she was one of the band of youngsters who for four days held out against the Nazis in her native Bialystok. With perhaps a single stolen pistol between 12 people, or the occasional Molotov cocktail, they kept the German troops at bay in the ghetto there. She also joined the ghetto fighters in what had once been called the Jerusalem of Lithuania, Vilna (now Vilnius).

A tiny person who did not look particularly Jewish, she posed as a non-Jewish Pole when she crawled in and out of the Warsaw Ghetto on a series of underground missions, bringing news of the outside world and the occasional gun. Later, when asked how Jews could face those times, she said there was a sense that the Nazis intended to destroy every remnant of Jewry except 12 people who would be bussed from place to place as examples of the exotic species that had once existed. "We all thought we would get on that bus," she said.

Resistance was always hopeless but the handful who fought in the uprisings and survived had the satisfaction of doing something. It was an



Grossman... commitment

opportunity open to very few. When their efforts finally failed, Grossman and a handful of companions joined a group of Jewish partisans in the forests around Bialystok.

After the war, she served as the representative of Ha Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir, the Marxist-Zionist organisation in Poland, co-ordinating the departure of the remnant of Polish Jewry. In 1948 she finally arrived in what was now Israel. It was another example of commitment on her part. Two sisters had survived the Holocaust but a brother conscripted into the Red Army, did not. For her Israel was her homeland and she wanted to help build this new country. She joined her organisation's kibbutz, Eytan, where a portrait of Stalin hung in the dining room. There she married Meir Orkin, a childhood friend from Bialystok, but took the almost unheard of step of retaining her maiden name, a sign that the independence she had shown as a partisan was still strong.

She was an ideal parliamentary candidate for the Mafam party, the political wing of Ha Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir, far to the left of the larger Mafai group (the two would later merge to form the rump of what is now the Israeli Labour Party). In 1968, she took her seat in the Knesset and went on to become a deputy speaker. She served for 20 years.

The last three years of her life were spent in a coma. In 1993, at a reception for Israel Independence Day in an Arab village, she slipped and fell down a steep flight of steps and never recovered. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Michael Freedland

Haika Grossman, resistance fighter and politician, born November 20, 1919; died May 28, 1996

Birthdays

Sir James Black FRS, pharmacologist and medical researcher, 72; Paul Boateng MP, Labour legal affairs spokesman, 48; Mike Brackwell, founder, Hull-Track Theatre Company, 48; Dame Florence Cayford, former member, LCC and GLC, 98; Stuart Evans, rugby player, 33; Julie Felix, singer, 57; Boy George, pop singer, 35; Steve Graf, tennis player, 27; Edna Healey, writer, 78; Dorothy McGuire, actress, 77; Yvonne Moores, chief nursing officer and director of nursing, Department of Health, 55; Jonathan Raban, novelist, travel writer, 54; Kathleen Raine, poet, 88; Dame Rosemary Rue, former president, BMA, 68; Pierre Salinger, journalist, former White House press secretary, 71; Antony Sher, actor and writer, 47; Nigel Short, chess player, 31; Prof Trevor Smith, vice-chancellor, University of Ulster, 59; James Wright, vice-chancellor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne University, 57; Mike Yarwood, impressionist, 55.

Letter

Mary Stott writes: Enid Hutchinson (obituary, June 9) was one of the founders of the very influential committee of the Fawcett Society (campaigners since 1868 for "equality of opportunity in law, custom and practice").

In the late 1970s some members got together on a Thames houseboat and agreed to set up an education committee. They appealed to education authorities, multi-power boards, teachers and so on all over the country to widen education opportunities and career training for girls.

Enid Hutchinson became the committee's convenor and was deeply involved in the Fawcett Society's "positive action" awards scheme which adapted a positive response "from Cornwall to Dundee".

Acknowledgments

Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Julia, for Prayer answered. A. B. To place your announcement telephone 011 713 022. Fax 011 713 4128.

John Alton

Film's painter with light

DESPITE cinema being the most collaborative of art forms, the director is ultimately responsible for the heart, head and eye of the film, although the cinematographer is often attributed with the last. Yet even the best of cinematographers, such as John Alton, who has died aged 94, can only realise the director's vision through his own resourceful technical skills.

Alton's work varied greatly depending on the director's style, ranging from the stark for Anthony Mann, the flashy for Richard Brooks and the refined for Vincente Minnelli. Three directors aesthetically worlds apart. Yet he became so respected a cameraman that many creative decisions were taken jointly with him.

The cosmopolitan and polyglot Alton was born in Hungary, emigrating as a teenager to the US in 1919. Five years later, passionate about photography, he joined MGM as a lab technician. He went with Ernst Lubitsch to Europe in 1927 to shoot exteriors for *The Student Prince* and stayed on in Paris for five years as head of the camera department at Joinville studios. Subsequently, Alton moved to Argentina and set up that country's first sound stage. He adored his life in Buenos Aires, where he directed, wrote and photographed more than a dozen films, and married local journalist Rozalia Kiss, with whom he remained until her death in 1967.

After service in the second world war, when he rose to the rank of captain in the US army, Alton started his Hollywood career in earnest. In the late 1940s, he established his reputation as a leading cinematographer of films noir, especially those directed by Mann. *T-Men*, *Hollow Triumph*, *Border Incident* and *The Crooked Way* were superb examples of highly stylised, deep-focus, monochrome location photography, owing much to German Expressionism and in keeping with the alienation of the characters.

At MGM, in the 1950s, Alton provided more reassuring images for *Father of the Bride* and *Father's Little Dividend*. Minnelli's streamlined domestic comedies, and won an Oscar for the ballet photography of *An American in Paris* (1951), in the 15-minute dance finale of the Minnelli musical. Alton's Technicolor camera captured the chromatic essence of the French Impressionist paintings on which the tabernacle fantasies were based.

Because the dapper Alton — who sported a neat moustache and wore a trilby, tweeds and silk bow ties — was a maverick by nature, he continually found himself at odds with the MGM front office. This resulted in his working frequently for other studios, where he had more freedom. An effective use of chiaroscuro infused *The Big Combo* (1955). Joseph H Lewis's classic sadomasochistic film noir, and a shadowy world, accentuated by lurid colours (especially the flaming hair of sisters Ariene Dahl and Rhonda Fleming) was created in Allan Dwan's *Slightly Scarlet* (1956).

Back with MGM and Minnelli, Alton coped brilliantly with the richness of the decor and costumes in *Designing Woman* (1957) and provided a burnished surface to Richard Brooks's *The Brothers Karamazov* (1958). Brooks's *Elmer Gantry* (1960), which was boosted greatly by the Eastman Color photography evoking the Midwestern atmosphere of the Sinclair Lewis novel, was among Alton's best work but it was to be his last completed film. In 1962, he quit *The Birdman of Alcatraz*, the director, was replaced by John Frankenheimer, and spent the next three decades in obscurity, travelling and painting in Europe and South America.

In 1983, some film scholars discovered his whereabouts and persuaded him to attend the Telluride Film Festival, where his movies were shown. Enjoying his rediscovery, Alton appeared at similar homages in Vienna and New York.

His 1949 book, *Painting with Light*, was republished last year, the title being an accurate description of a very special art of which John Alton was a master.

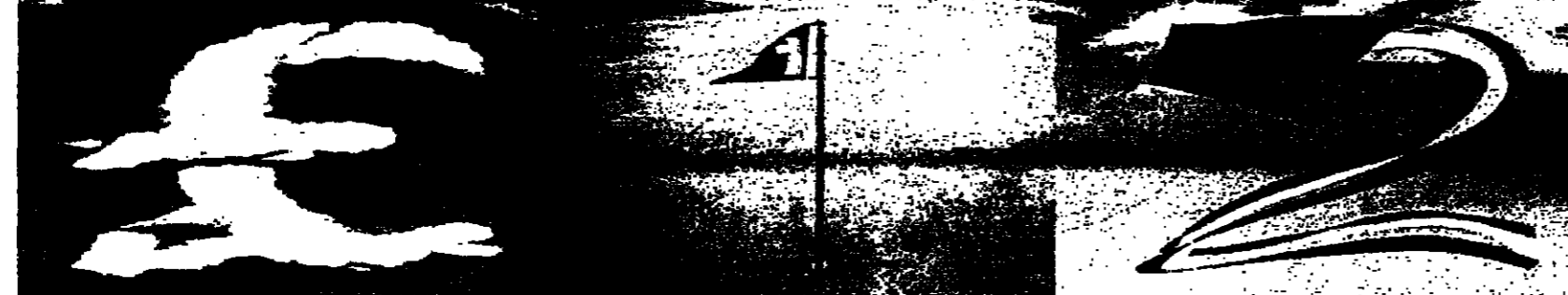
Ronald Bergan

John Alton, cinematographer, born October 5, 1901; died June 2, 1996



Shades of a master... Alton's work on He Walked By Night, with Richard Basehart

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Finance Guardian

Leaked memo shows Sainsbury taking £400m a year gamble on new customer card

Loyalty comes at big price

Lisa Buckingham

SAINSBURY, the supermarkets company, will need to increase its sales by up to £400 million a year to cover the costs of the loyalty card it plans to introduce next Monday, according to internal company documents.

A memorandum shows that managers estimate sales must rise by 2.4 per cent from last year's £10 billion "to offset some of the costs" of the new loyalty programme. There was an underlying fall of 2 per cent in the company's grocery sales last year.

Sainsbury is introducing the nationwide loyalty card in response to the success of rivals' schemes, notably Tesco's and Sainsbury's, which have been stealing market share from the company, recently topped from its position as Britain's number one food retailer.

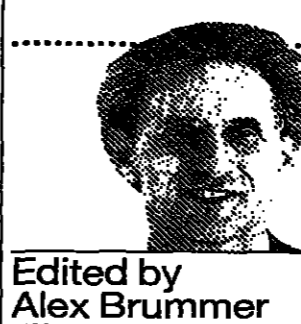
The memo suggests that Sainsbury's delay in entering the loyalty-card war will cost it dear. The need to increase sales by up to 4 per cent compares with Tesco's assertion that it had to boost sales by only 1 per cent to break even with its Clubcard scheme, started last year, which is regarded as having been behind the supermarket's real like-for-like growth of nearly 5 per cent last year.

According to the leaked document, Sainsbury's Rewardcard will offer customers one point for every pound spent above a £5 minimum. This is more generous than the allocation on the group's former Savercard and is regarded by Sainsbury's executives as providing a more attractive offer than Tesco's.

Having done a smart rethink under new marketing director Kevin McCarten, the company is promising that its loyalty card will be just one aspect of a concerted effort to regain customers. Although the group reported a 6 per cent increase in supermarket sales in the year to March — overall group revenues were up by 12 per cent to £13.5 billion — most of that came from new or enlarged stores as well as price inflation. Like-for-like sales fell by 2 per cent.

Notebook

Name of Lloyd's game still secrecy



Edited by Alex Brummer

all of this when the Securities & Futures Authority's £8 million new market-surveillance system is running: not before time.

Business cash

AMONG the most critical issues addressed in Michael Heseltine's latest white paper on competitiveness is the role of small and medium sized business in the economy.

The white paper notes that smaller enterprises account for 50 per cent of non-government jobs, against 40 per cent when the Tories came to office. Yet despite the achievements of the small business sector, it has suffered from late payment, lack of financial support, poor training and over-burdensome business rates.

Think finance

IT IS no accident that the first serious London conference on the role of micro-finance in emerging markets was held this week under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. This London-based think-tank is developing a reputation for wicking a catholic range of issues.

It is heading some of the more established London think-tanks in attracting leading global financial practitioners to its governing body. Among those to have joined recently is the guru of the New York markets Henry Kaufman (formerly of Salomon Brothers) who is among the few followers of Wall Street who dares question whether the huge flow of cash into mutual funds is sustainable.

He has been joined by Peter Birch of the Abbey National, who lauded the trail in rejecting building society mutualism; Professor Charles Goodhart of the LSE; Sir Brian Pearce formerly of Midland and now at Lucas; Sir Peter Middleton of BZW; and Sir William Rye of the International Finance Corporation in Washington and the senior Brit at ING-CFSI.

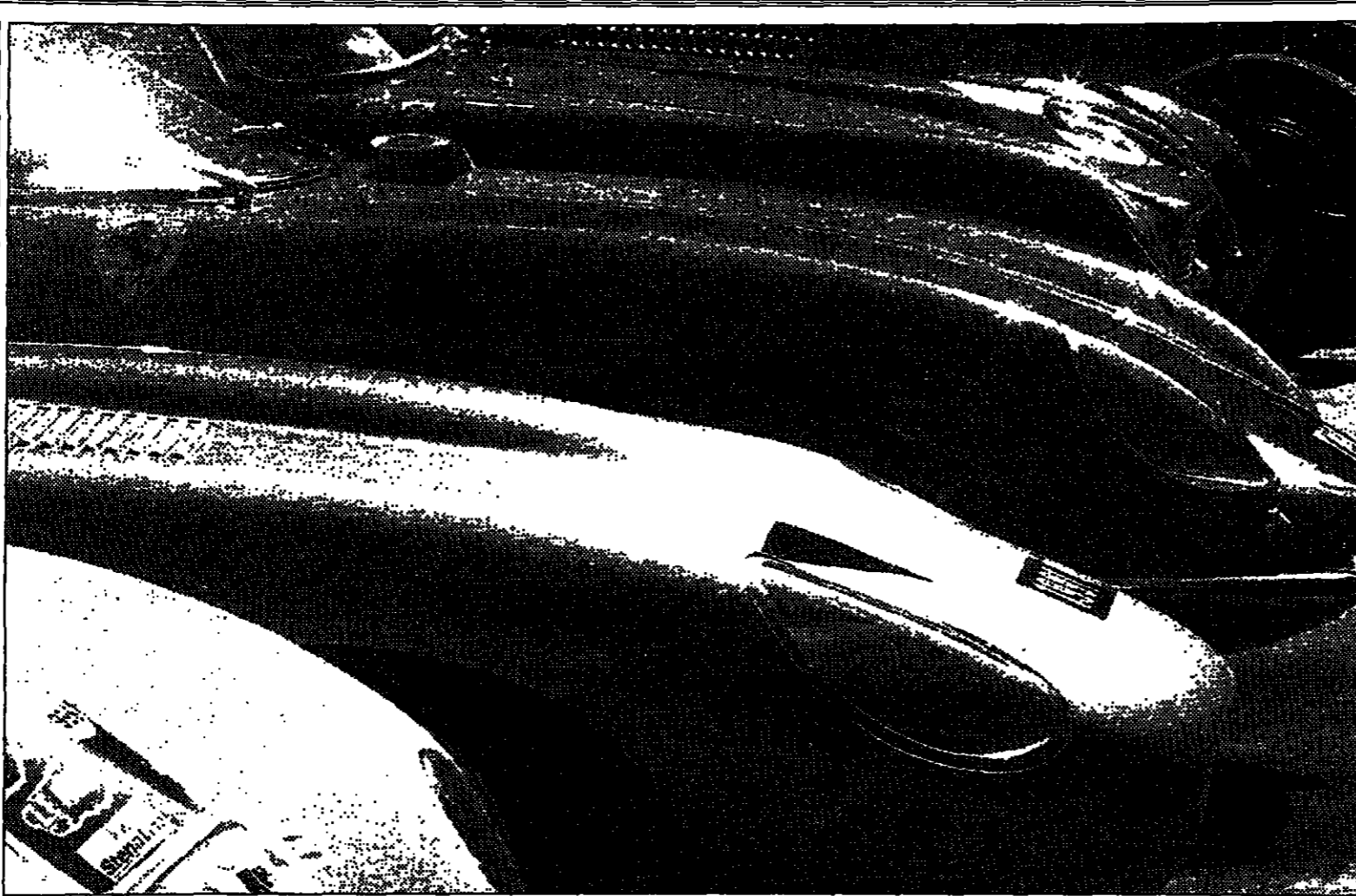
Blacklist of Names 'fined' £18m in debt settlement

Pauline Springett

LLOYD'S of London has drawn up a blacklist of Names to be punished for their part in causing the insurance market's recent £8 billion losses.

The 175 unidentified Names, some of whom are understood to be still working at Lloyd's, will have to pay a total £18 million extra when they settle their debts at the market.

The move is part of the £3.1 billion settlement offer for the market's 34,000 Names. Each Name will shortly receive an individually tailored offer consisting of some cash and some forgiveness of debt. Effectively, the people on the blacklist will have their credit against debts reduced by £18 million.



Body line... 27 veterans of Le Mans driving classic sports cars were waved off from the City of London yesterday by Bank of England Governor Eddie George and Sun Alliance chairman Sir Christopher Benson and headed for France and this weekend's 24-hour race

Singapore leaves Leeson carrying can

Patrick Donovan City Editor

FORMER Barings trader, Nick Leeson, has been left to carry the can for the £830 million collapse of the City's oldest merchant bank after the Singapore government yesterday announced that it has dropped an investigation into two of his senior colleagues.

Leeson, who was both director of Barings Futures Singapore. The two, who had been confined to Singapore pending the completion of the investigation, have been given back their passports and are now understood to be in Britain.

The CAD originally said it was continuing its inquiries into other Barings staff on the day in November last year that Mr Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for concealing the disastrous losses from unauthorised trades which brought down the bank in February 1995.

Yesterday, it also announced that it had dropped an investigation related to the Barings affair into Edmund Wong, the director of Contac Software, and Daniel Argyropoulos, a close friend of Leeson, who worked alongside Leeson at the Singapore International Monetary Exchange.

Mr Wong, a computer consultant for Barings, was suspected of falsifying company financial records to cover Leeson's fraud. Mr Argyropoulos, a US citizen and a former trader with First Continental Singapore, had driven Leeson to the airport in February 1995 for a flight to Malaysia when it became apparent that Barings was about to collapse.

Southern Electric opens bidding with promise to shrink water bills

Ian King

SOUTHERN Electric yesterday set the clock ticking on its bid for Southern Water, promising the target group's customers a 4 per cent reduction in their bills by April 1999.

That matches a reduction in prices it announced hours earlier for its electricity customers. Launching Southern's offer document, and triggering the 60-day takeover timetable, chairman Geoffrey Wilson said the combined group would provide customers with a focused energy and utility business.

Suits need not apply for this finance director's position

Tony May

STRUT on down, you funky finance dudes. Shuck that tie, dump that Samsonite briefcase, ditch those horn-rim shades and roller-blade on down to Diesel jeans to be interviewed for the post of finance director-designate.

Financial adviser is fined under new rules on pension transfers

Sarah Whitebloom

AN INDEPENDENT financial adviser yesterday became the first firm to be fined by a City regulator for flouting tough rules on pension transfers which were introduced following the disclosure that thousands of personal pensions had been mis-sold.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Sounas Mifne

FOUR hundred former British Gas women workers forced to retire at 60 have been awarded more than £8 million compensation between them, their union announced yesterday.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Sounas Mifne

The settlements are between £1,000 and £50,000 for the women, ranging from showroom managers to clerical workers, after the European Court of Justice ruled they had been doubly discriminated against, losing five years' pay and having a smaller pension than if they had been allowed to stay working until 65.

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Sounas Mifne

British Gas was guilty of discrimination under the EU equal treatment directive. Rodney Bickerstaffe, Union general secretary, welcomed the settlement but said it was "disappointing that British Gas dragged this out so long to pay modest amounts when they were throwing money at their highly-paid executives".

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Sounas Mifne

Pat Turner, aged 78, who retired in 1976 from the customer accounts department in the West Midlands, said: "I did not want to retire. I asked to be put on a list to do part-time or casual work, but even that was denied to me because of my age."

£8m pay-out for British Gas women forced to retire at 60

Sounas Mifne

British Gas said in a statement: "Up until 1986 the Government considered UK law complied with European law and the policy of having different retirement ages for men and women at work was acceptable."

Rate cut hopes climb following fall in inflation

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

HOPES that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke will deliver further cuts in interest rates rose yesterday after the publication of figures showing a sharp fall in inflation.

The Office for National Statistics said cheap food and lower mortgage payments pushed the annual rate of price rises down to 2.2 per cent last month — the lowest rate since December 1994 — against 2.4 per cent in April. The underlying inflation rate — which strips out housing costs — also dipped to 2.8 per cent in May, from 2.9 per cent the preceding month.

City analysts, who were surprised by the upbeat figures, said they might persuade Mr Clarke to repeat last week's quarter-point cut in the cost of borrowing to 5.75 per cent.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "The Chancellor will

probably cut again later in the year. And there is no chance of him putting rates back up before the election: he'd rather jump off Tower Bridge."

Coming after news last week of a plunge in factory gate prices, economists said yesterday's data could mark the beginning of a sustained period of low prices.

"These figures provide the first strong evidence that the inflation tide has begun to turn decisively," said Mr Shepherdson. "Any more news like this and Mr Clarke will be following his predecessor and singing in the bath — but with more justification."

Andrew Cates, an economist at brokers UBS, said: "Combined with Clarke's soft spot for manufacturing, the risk is that he will cut rates again."

The Treasury said the ONS figures rounded off an excellent week for the Chancellor, vindicating his decision to overrule Bank of England misgivings and trim rates last week.

"This is further good news on inflation," a spokeswoman said. "The numbers suggest that subdued producer prices are holding back high street prices," she said.

ONS officials said buoyant demand for retail goods had failed to drive up price tags, as some experts had predicted, with personal and household goods — two boom areas for sales volumes — falling in price between April and May. Seasonal food costs rose by just 2 per cent last month, compared to a 4 per cent rise in the same period last year.

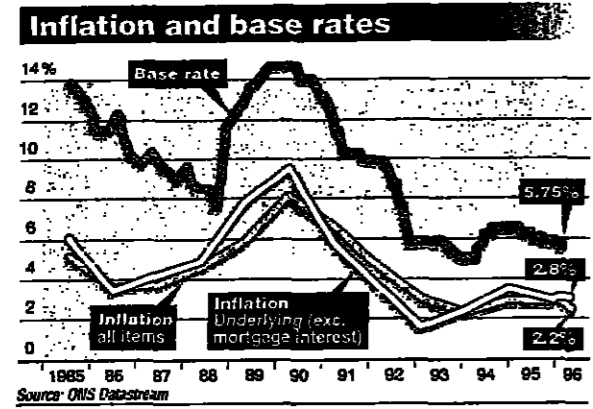
Falling mortgage costs also exerted downwards pressure on the Retail Price Index, swamping the effects of rising house prices, the ONS said. Only rising motor costs sullied the picture of widespread price restraint.

The ONS third measure of inflation, RPI-X, which strips out indirect taxes as well as mortgage interest, fell even more dramatically, from an annual rate of 2.6 per cent in April to 2.3 per cent last month.

Market watchers said the latest evidence of subdued inflationary pressure shortened the odds on the Government hitting its target of 2.5 per cent for the underlying rate of price rises.

"We expect further falls in the underlying rate," said Kevin Darlington, chief economist at ABN Amro. "It could well flirt with the Chancellor's target by the end of the summer."

But Mr Darlington warned that strong figures for retail sales and money supply next week could force Mr Clarke to delay any further easing of monetary policy.



Copper market's chiefs talk to City watchdogs

Paul Murphy

THE London Metal Exchange admitted yesterday that its ability to police the world's premier market for non-ferrous metals is limited.

Speaking in the wake of unprecedented volatility in the price of copper and widespread allegations of price-rigging, chairman Raj Bagri said the exchange was talking about the matter with the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog.

At the centre of discussion is the question of how to monitor broking firms which are not members of the LME, but which still trade through the market or carry out off-market transactions.

Act does not allow the LME to regulate non-members," Mr Bagri said.

Neither Mr Bagri nor the exchange's chief executive, David King, could shed further light on reports that turbulence in the copper market had led to government-level discussions between Britain and Japan, a big consumer of copper.

The recent price fall has been attributed in part to uncertainty over the position of one Japanese trader. While Mr Bagri admitted that the LME was not happy with the state of the copper market, the exchange has stepped short of taking action to calm dealers, beyond technical measures including an increase in the margin payment traders must make before doing business.

Mr Bagri said that he was not aware of any metals trading firms facing bankruptcy as a result of wild fluctuations in the copper price — which one day last week fell by more than 15 per cent in two hours — and stated that the exchange was not investigating any cases of possible price manipulation.

"We don't believe that manipulation is taking place," Mr King said. "We have carried out inquiries and are looking at the issues on an ongoing basis. I can assure you that we would have come down like a ton of bricks. We would not tolerate it."

The LME was not prepared to comment on a series of police raids in the Channel Islands last month, which are believed to have been linked to trading in the copper market.



Seeking review... Kevin Maxwell at the High Court yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

New trial judge choice challenged by Maxwell

Ian King

KEVIN Maxwell yesterday challenged the Lord Chancellor's choice of judges for his impending second trial, calling for the re-appointment of Lord Justice Phillips, who presided over his first case.

Mr Maxwell, who was acquitted of two charges at the end of the first trial in January, said the re-appointment of Lord Justice Phillips would save both time and money.

Alun Jones, Mr Maxwell's QC — who represented him during the eight-month trial — told the High Court the decision was likely to be even longer and would be "of considerable complexity".

Applying for a judicial review of the Lord Chancellor's decision to appoint Mr Justice Buckley, Mr Jones

said the decision was "unlawful and irrational", and said a new judge would make "heavy, expensive and time-consuming demands" on counsel and solicitors.

He said the appointment of another judge was likely to cause serious additional delay and public expense in a "notorious case that has already been protracted, arduous and expensive".

He added: "The first trial judge is uniquely qualified, from his detailed knowledge of the case, to deal with arguments and issues. There is such interlocking of evidence on the counts that it is obviously desirable that the same judge deal with it."

Mr Jones said he believed that the director of the Serious Fraud Office, who has brought the second prosecution, was not opposed to his application and appeared to

recognise the "strong desirability" of re-appointing Lord Justice Phillips.

He also blamed the Lord Chancellor's department of using "administrative convenience" for not reappointing Lord Justice Phillips because of the workload facing the appeal courts.

In his second trial, Kevin Maxwell, along with former Maxwell adviser Larry Trachtenberg — a defendant in the first trial — and former Maxwell Communication Corporation director Albert Fuller, will face charges related to the alleged misuse of shares in Berlitz, a former MCC subsidiary. Meanwhile, Michael Stoney, another former MCC director, will face two charges of false accounting.

News in brief

Motor cover leads premiums rise

INSURANCE premiums are set to rise this year, with the cost of motor policies likely to show the sharpest increases, the Association of British Insurers warned yesterday. John Carter, ABI chairman, said the industry had enjoyed a "win, win" year in 1995 because policyholders had benefited from cheap premiums and shareholders had received bigger dividends on the back of bumper profits.

But Mr Carter warned that insurance was a cyclical industry and premiums would inevitably start to rise this year. There were already signs that motor rates had begun to do so. Mr Carter was speaking as the ABI revealed that the insurance industry received \$36.8 billion in worldwide general premiums last year, a 6 per cent increase on 1994.

The trading profit on this, including investment income, was \$3.9 billion, marginally lower than the previous year. The life industry continued to show signs of regaining customer confidence, with UK life premium income 3 per cent higher than the previous year at \$44.1 billion. — Pauline Springett

\$1m bounty for trader

A SENIOR US Treasury official considered paying bounty hunters more than \$1 million to bring in Swiss-based commodities trader Marc Rich — on the run from the American authorities for more than a decade because of alleged commercial links with Iran.

Colleagues of the chief enforcer of sanctions, Richard Newcomb, were horrified by the 1992 kidnapping plot, according to the Wall Street Journal. Mr Rich, now living in Switzerland, fled from the US in 1983 in the face of tax evasion and fraud charges. US officials have been quoted as saying he remains high on their wanted list. — Mark Miller

Shipyards jobs warning

THREE thousand shipbuilding jobs at VSEL in Barrow — more than half the workforce — will be lost in the next three years unless major work is secured, Brian George, chief executive, warned yesterday. He said the company was investing in new processes and equipment and must now aim for a reduction in costs of 30 per cent.

Mr George called for a new culture at the yard as work on the Trident submarine contract comes to an end and the company focuses on new submarine and surface ship contracts. The company was confident of winning these contracts. He said: "We must line up the terms and conditions of this yard with other yards with which we have to compete."

Cable cash dents Mail profits

HEAVY investment in new ventures, such as cable television, is expected to knock profits at the Daily Mail and General Trust group in the current financial year, the company warned yesterday. First-half profits rose from £8.3 million to £41 million although they slipped marginally on an underlying basis.

Newspaper prices for the company, which publishes the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday and the London Evening Standard, rose by 28 per cent but the group said the levelling out in these costs coupled with a diminution in promotional expense meant profit growth in its newspaper division should reflect increased circulations. — Liz Buckingham

Advisers win court battle

ACCOUNTANTS Ernst & Young and actuaries Bacon & Woodrow yesterday celebrated a significant legal victory after a High Court judge ruled they had not given negligent professional advice to Dutch insurer NRG over its purchase of Victory Reinsurance in 1990. It is understood that NRG had been seeking damages in the region of £400 million.

Bacon & Woodrow said that although Mr Justice Colman had found the actuarial firm negligent in one minor respect, he had decided it had no bearing on NRG's decision to make its acquisition. The case first went to court in January 1996. Last August NRG abandoned an attempt to sue Swiss Bank Corp over the acquisition. — Pauline Springett

Moss Bros buys stores

MOSS Bros is buying the Blazer men's casual wear retail chain from Storehouse for £7.1 million and plans to triple the number of Blazer stores. Moss Bros, best known for its formal menswear business, runs 128 stores, now living in the Savoy, the Guild, Cecil Gee and The Suit Company brands. Blazer has 28 stores, primarily in London and the South-east, and Moss Bros said it would create up to 50 more. — Tony May

FKI plans £270m deals

FKI, the engineering and automotive group, is in negotiations for two "sizeable" acquisitions which could cost up to £270 million in total, finance director Eric Bowers said. He was speaking after announcing a 33.3 per cent rise in profit to £90.1 million for the year to March 31 — which were well ahead of analysts' expectations. — Tony May

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Panel limits predators' use of derivatives

Ian King

THE Takeover Panel yesterday shake-up in City takeover rules aimed at preventing the misuse of derivatives during bids.

The panel said details of derivatives transactions must be made public during bid contests — in the same way that share deals and shareholdings must be disclosed.

The rule, which comes into effect immediately, will apply to all bids, whether parties to an offer, their associates and large shareholders. It will prevent hostile bidders "disguising" their interest in target companies by using financial derivatives, such as futures and options contracts.

The panel's decision, made after a lengthy inquiry, follows an appeal made during Trafalgar House's abortive £1.2 billion bid for Northern Electric in March last year.

This saw a row over derivatives contracts entered into by Trafalgar and its financial adviser, Swiss Banking Corporation, under which SBC took stakes in Northern — and other regional electricity companies — before the bid was launched.

The panel was backed by the City's leading watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board, which yesterday published its 30-page draft guide on the use of derivatives in corporate finance.

The SIB said corporate financiers should not use derivatives allowing its clients to buy or sell stakes in companies when those clients were prevented from buying or selling a stake in that company directly on the open market.

Stay in Europe — for now, advises maverick Minford

Wise man tells Clarke that EU benefits enjoy slender advantage over costs. LARRY ELLIOTT reports

THE Conservative Party's week of soul-searching about Europe was coming to a climax yesterday when a member of the Chancellor's panel of independent economic advisers produced a critical audit of Britain's 25-year membership of the European Community.

Patrick Minford, professor of economics at Liverpool University, gave extra momentum to the "in-or-out" debate triggered by Tory MP Bill Cash's referendum bill, with a paper questioning whether Britain should leave the European Union.

On the morning after Kenneth Clarke cited inward investment and Britain's strength in invisible trade in defence of a continuing strong link with Brussels, Prof Minford came up with a more critical appraisal.

"We must work for a free-market Europe," Prof Minford said in his 38-page "balance sheet" released yesterday. "If we fail we will then be forced to contemplate a future outside Europe, as a free trading nation."

Mr Clarke used his Mansion House speech on Wednesday to champion the cause of the Euro-enthusiasts within the Conservative Party, arguing that Britain's European base was an asset rather than a millstone around its neck.

The Chancellor delivered the classic case for Britain's membership, one that has

ber states, increase the economic benefits from the Single Market and act as a bulwark against financial speculation.

The pro-Europeans have generally made the running since the 1975 referendum decided by a two-to-one majority that Britain should stay in Europe, if only because they have argued convincingly that the costs of pulling out would be enormous.

Prof Minford's paper demonstrates how far the pendulum has swung over the past couple of years, with the row over BSE in beef the catalyst for a more sceptical view of 23 years of membership.

At present, Prof Minford sees the argument as finely balanced. On the one hand, Britain loses out from the Common Agricultural Policy, which he estimates costs the UK about £10 billion a year in waste, higher prices and transfer payments to Brussels. This amounts to around

1.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

On the other hand, the paper finds that Britain enjoys a competitive advantage from being the focus for almost half of the inward investment into the European Union. Prof Minford, a strong supporter of deregulation, believes that Britain could generate an extra £9 billion from exports of consumer durables into the highest markets of continental Europe.

As a result, he concludes that at present the benefits and the costs essentially cancel each other out. However, signing up to the Social Chapter and joining a single currency would tip the balance massively in favour of the Euro-sceptics. On the improbable basis that a national minimum wage would be introduced at 68 per cent of mean male and female earnings, Prof Minford calculates that unemployment would rise by 1.1 million. A minimum set at 50 per cent of male and female earnings would, he estimates, mean a 500,000 increase in joblessness.

Two important political calculations stem from this analysis. First, Prof Minford believes Britain could not repudiate the CAP while at the same time enjoying the benefits of being a low-cost base for European inward investment. Second, a Labour government who has already committed to EMU and the Social Chapter would almost certainly push the Conservatives further towards support for exit from the EU. Prof Minford believes this is unlikely to happen, however, because Labour in office will be wary of Europe than Labour in opposition.

Handwritten signature: J.P. Minford

The Guardian Athletics

No illusion as John gets ell

One-lap rivals on trial to be also-rans in Atlanta

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No illusions as Johnson gets elbow

One-lap rivals on trial to be also-rans in Atlanta

Stephen Brierley

THE highly dramatised account of Eric Liddell's Olympic victory in the 400 metres in Paris in 1924, as portrayed in the film Chariots of Fire, bore scant resemblance to reality. Similarly the hype surrounding the 400m at this week-end's Olympic trials in Birmingham may have little relevance to actual events in Atlanta next month.

Olympics, pulled out of the trials yesterday with an Achilles tendon niggle. He has been troubled for two years with similar problems. His coach Vicente Modahl has called for him to be given more time, but this appears unlikely; unless Sunday's final times are poor.

The first two in every event this week-end, provided they have achieved Olympic qualifying times or distances, will gain automatic selection for Atlanta. A third place, where appropriate, will be decided by the selection panel on Sunday evening and announced on Monday.

Black, the 400m European champion twice and world silver medal winner in 1991, years for Olympic success after injury thwarted him in Seoul and Barcelona. He had a knee operation last December but has since been training freely and without pain in California.

"The semi-final heats will be important. You want to make your mark and it's then you see what sort of form the boys are in," Black said yesterday. He knows that Thomas and Bauch are sharp, but believes that Ladejo and Mark Richardson, fifth in last year's world championships in Gothenburg, have the pedigree to come through.

And a prediction of the places? "I don't know who will come second and third," Black said. Linford Christie, who has yet to commit himself publicly to defending his 100m Olympic title, will run both the sprints, and is expected to express his Atlanta intentions on television either tomorrow or Sunday anywhere other than in the press room.

Britain's chances of an Olympic gold medal in track and field in Atlanta probably rest on the slim shoulders of the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, the world champion and world record holder. Unfortunately he will be missing from the trials because of injury. Also out injured is Steve Backley, the world silver medal winner in the javelin.

Athletes competing against suspended drug abusers who use court orders to enter the US Olympic trials will not be banned after all by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.



Heaven sent... Nottinghamshire's paceman Cairns gives thanks as Weston departs, caught Bates for 21. Worcestershire were 342 for three, with Moody not out on 194, after the first day at New Road. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAXON

Essex v Northamptonshire

Modern times but same old faces

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

IT WAS just like old times here yesterday as John Childs (45 in July) bowled to John Emburey (44 in August) just before Graham Gooch (43 next month) came in to bat. When David Acfield (or AC Field as he was once called here) produces his keenly awaited report on the state of the game, he may reflect upon such days as this.

playing, but that it is a sadness that they should continue to dominate younger colleagues so easily at an age when they should be reaching for the pipe and slippers instead of the Gray-Nicolls. Nor is it testimony to the strength of the game's youth that yesterday, with Mark Lloyd injured, Essex fielded Steve Andrew, who played for Hampshire from 1984-89 and for this county since 1990 but who has not yet won a county cap. Meanwhile Northamptonshire, without Curtly Ambrose

and Kevin Curran, brought back Neil Mallender (35 in August), who took only 17 wickets last season. At Essex the sense of family is strong, and the former captain Keith Fletcher and Brian Taylor looked on as the best batsmen came from Gooch. He made 38 from only 45 balls with six fours and a six, gleefully fielded on the rebound by his father Alf on the backward-square-leg boundary. Essex responded to a score of 214 by making 63 for no wicket.

The pitch offered seam movement and uneven bounce and the visitors lost their first five wickets for 111. A single batting point appeared beyond them when Andy Roberts was ninth out at 163, but Paul Taylor and Mallender added 51 for the last wicket. Both Andrew and Ashley Cowan bowled a good opening spell and only Malachy Loye and David Roberts — the latter making his debut and happily still only 19 — showed any authority. Childs then came on to tease out the later order.

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns showing cricket match results, scores, and player statistics for various counties including Essex, Northamptonshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire.

Cricket

County C'ship: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

Penney hits on hangover cure

David Hopps at Headingley

A CROWDED county circuit leaves precious little time for reflection, and for once Warwickshire and Yorkshire were grateful for that. As losing semi-finalists in the Benson and Hedges Cup, players on both sides awoke to emptiness, but they barely had time to swallow their bacon and eggs before their respective championship challenges intruded upon their grief.

hours for his second first-class century of the summer. Ostler attracts the most plaudits and was an England A tour last winter, but Penney possesses the higher career average, 43 as opposed to 36. Their respective dismissals yesterday gave clues why: Ostler, gliding in a pull against Silverwood, skied a return catch when a century was there for the taking; Penney ground on with minimal risk until a controlled innings came to grief on 125 when he fell leg-before to White.

The need to banish depression was even more urgent in what probably represents the first meaningful top-of-the-table contest this season. Yorkshire are leaders, needing more than ever to confirm their betterment in the four-day game; Warwickshire lurk just behind, with a game in hand, hearing the whispers that they are not quite the force of the past two years.

White, savaged in Lancashire's late B&H assault, found some balm with a spell of three for four in 4.3 overs to end Warwickshire's innings. But Yorkshire's likeliest bowler was Gough, whose four for 66 in front of the chairman; Warwickshire's Raymond Illingworth, to follow five wickets against Surrey at Middlebrough, suggested he is nearing England form.

Yorkshire, having dismissed Warwickshire for 306 yesterday, will be content in the belief that they have achieved parity. They lost the toss on a sound, slow surface and if they had conceded 400 they would have been particularly vulnerable against Warwickshire's spinners. In less resolute times, they would have been their destiny.

Gough's Yorker brought two impressive victims, both without scoring. Moles, an outside spot for an England opening batsman, was bowled off the toe of his bat, and Pollock fell leg-before second ball.

Warwickshire's hangover cure was supplied by Dominic Ostler, whose unconstrained strokeplay brought 85 from 115 balls and Trevor Penney, who dispelled his own despondency by grafting for 54.

There has been an unkind wish in some quarters to rubbish Gough as a song-and-dance act, and his chances of an England recall are reduced while Mullally's left-arm seam is tried in the name of variety. As the song-and-dance man might warn, that's what killed Music Hall.

India's batsmen fail again

NAYAN MONGLA, who is likely to open in next week's second Test at Lord's, hit an accomplished 74 not out to help India towards the respectability of 229 against Derbyshire yesterday.

facing humiliation at one stage when they slumped to 110 for eight, but the last two wickets added 119 to put the earlier batting into perspective. Mohammad Azharuddin failed again, scoring only 21, and Devon Malcolm claimed four for 60.

Kent v Middlesex

Weekes again the centurion

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

ONLY delegates at a conference of tobacco manufacturers could have been offered more players than have Middlesex supporters this season. Eighteen have been used in their six championship games to date, with five debutants — including another yesterday, Peter Wellings instead of Peter Gettling, who apparently has been bitten by something virulent and burst out in lumps and a rash. Sounds like the barmaid again.

not out) to negotiate the second new ball, only four overs old, and take their total on to 500 today before giving Tufnell free rein. With just a couple of 50s hitherto, Weekes's season has started slowly. But he came into this match with confidence sky-high after an eight-wicket haul against Glamorgan and a Sunday league century against the same opposition. Yesterday he batted for just under 3½ hours for his 100, sharing in an opening stand of 110 with Harrison (40) and hitting 15 fours — one, enterprisingly, from yards down the pitch to reach three figures — and two sixes.

Headley gained some revenge by removing Weekes's middle stump, and shortly afterwards got mistimed a pull to square leg. Ramprakash was in an adhesive mood, however, taking 218 minutes over his 66 and making only 28 of a fourth-wicket stand of precisely 100 with Pooley. Pooley made 67 from 87 balls with 12 fours — seven off Patel in an extravagant acceleration after tea — before he was well caught by McCague at mid-off. Ramprakash was then bowled, driving agonisingly at the stumps, leaving Brown and Wellings (20 not out) and Wellings (29

But the team's unsettled nature does not appear to have done Middlesex much harm, for although the season started creakily for them they have got into their stride in recent weeks, moving to sixth in the championship. Yesterday, thanks to a hundred from Weekes and half-centuries from Ramprakash and Pooley, they batted their way into a solid position at 358 for five against Kent, currently in second place only a point behind Yorkshire.

Surrey v Leicestershire

Major stake for tidy Butcher

David Foot at The Oval

IT LOOKED like a pitch from the Golden Age; but The Oval often has that nostalgic sheen which is enticing for batsmen and infuriating for bowlers who perspire under the midsummer sun.

should be plenty of runs still to come from a tidy technique and to garnish the record of the Butcher dynasty. After winning the toss, Surrey started to accumulate at an engaging speed. Butcher and Bicknell, and the Butcher and Stewart, appeared to be apportioning easy runs with the same cosy bonding of Bob and Paula sorting out their living accommodation.

Surrey finished on 340 for six after, at times, stroking along with a disdain that suggested they were on their way to a total much closer to 500. Mark Butcher is something of a revelation. His hundred was the second in succession and the fifth of his career. He is doubtless being monitored by those who are looking to England's future. These days he is a discriminating player, minimising wanton shots but clouting attractively whenever the bowler wavers.

But there had to be flaws. Bicknell unpredictably disappeared leg-before, and Stewart — happily back in the side after worries over his wife's health — fell victim to short-leg as he prepared to cut. Hollisoke was inexplicably run out, and the persevering Pierson, a tall, lean spinner who keeps his cap on while bowling as all the slow men once did, took four wickets from an unbroken stint of 37 overs, which was generously applauded. But Thorpe is still there, with a six and 12 sparkling fours. He is on 84 and close to his fourth hundred of the season, although he should have been taken at long-leg off Wells when on 73.

Christie and Lewis head for the finish

Duncan Mackay on one of the great sprint rivalries

THIS week 12 months ago a tearful Linford Christie vowed not to compete at the 1996 Olympics and his great rival Carl Lewis was so out of form in the 100 metres that it was impossible to conceive he would run in Atlanta.

can finished third, the Briton fifth. If both make the trip, it seems fitting that Atlanta should bring down the curtain on a glorious period for sprinting. It will be a poorer event when they are no longer around.

Neither man is prepared to step aside for youngsters such as Bailey just yet. Maybe there are more medals to be won by the athletes who have taken every Olympic 100m title since 1984.

The most memorable was five years ago when Lewis set a world record of 9.86sec at the world championships in Tokyo while Christie finished fourth in 9.92. Two years later in Stuttgart the roles were reversed and Christie won in 9.87 as Lewis came fourth.

Cricket

News and Scores 0891 22 88+

Table with columns for County, Score, and Extras. Lists results for Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Leics, and Lancs.

Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

Calls cost 33p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at other times. Supplied by B.S. 15 Mark Lane, Leeds LS1 6LS. Helpline 0171 731 4473

Sport



Lewis... running fast again

Sandown card

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Racing

Derby looks odds-on to keep its Saturday slot

BOOKMAKERS were betting on which day the Derby would be run next year, Saturday would be slightly odds-on. The board of United Recourses will meet on Monday to recommend a decision, and a discussion document will be forwarded to the sponsors, Vodafone, on Tuesday of the following week.

Senior management from the racecourse and the sponsors met yesterday, and Vodafone's chairman, Sir Ernest Harrison, has yet to make known his preference. A few months ago Harrison seemed to favour a return to Wednesday, but the company's Director of Corporate Affairs, Terry Barwick, confirmed at Newbury yesterday that Vodafone appreciated that both days had their virtues.

"I suppose the balance is slightly in favour of Saturday," he said. "As far as the company is concerned, the size of the television audience is important, as is the break in the week. I would think Saturday would be likely to attract the more viewers." "I couldn't understand why some thought the atmosphere last Saturday was muted. I thought there was a great atmosphere, and the great run-up for the second year running."



Chapple-Hyam... impressed

Ocean Ridge, the only filly against a field of colts, was soon disputing the lead and drew clear from halfway to score by a very easy four lengths from Eurolink Exalber. "She has such blistering speed," said Chapple-Hyam. "She must be a useful filly to beat the colts at this time of year."

Chapple-Hyam will discuss the winner's prospects with owner Robert Sangster, but it would come as no surprise if the Manton filly were to take on More Silver, the probable favourite for the Queen Mary Stakes. Barry Hills landed an old-fashioned touch with Fun Galore in the Kingsclere Conditions Stakes. On the strength of gallops with his Coventry Stakes hope Deputy Dudley, Richard Eaton's Wolf Mountain started even money favourite, while Barry Hills added two rides with Peartree House, ridden by Pat Eddery, seemingly the better fancied.

However, Fun Galore, partnered by the his son Michael, was backed from 12-1 to 7-1 and, quickening inside the final furlong, ran on well to beat Wolf Mountain by a head. The winner is destined for Newmarket next month and Hills, with a knowing smile, admitted to "having a few quid on."

Dettoni breaks elbow in parade ring

FRANKIE DETTONI all but forfeited his chance of retaining his jockey's championship when he broke his left elbow at Newbury yesterday. He will miss Royal Ascot and is likely to be out of the saddle for several weeks. He was sitting on Shaawaun in the parade ring before the Ballymacoll Stud Stakes when he was struck by the back of a horse and shot Dettoni onto the tarmac path. He took the full impact of the fall on his elbow, and was stunned for several minutes.

He was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading where his injury was confirmed following an x-ray. Before racing yesterday, the champion was 12 winners behind Pat Eddery in the race for the title, and Eddery increased the margin to 13 when driving home Everglades, the narrow winner of the George Smith Memorial Stakes. At York today Achilles Heel (4:10) should win the Monks Cross Apprentice Handicap with the minimum of fuss if he runs within a stone of his recent Epsom form.

He was 18lb out of the handicap when chasing home Dance So Suite on early Day 2000, but he has since lost ground. Martin Dwyer, an up and coming apprentice rider, is in the saddle again and Conrad Allen, trainer of Achilles Heel, has his horses in particularly good form at present. Sixteen runner spirit handicappers often spell disaster for punters, but the Napoleons Casino Stakes looks an exception. Surprise Mission (2:40) makes considerable appeal. Lightly raced, he is having his first outing for the In-Form Lads Ramsden stable and looked to be running into form when fifth at Haydock last month.

Stable jockey Kieran Fallon rides Supreme Mission in preference to Benzoo, who was second in this race last year. Fallon could also have gone to Sandown, where the Ramsdens are strongly represented by Master Charter and Sycamore Lodge.

Southwell all-weather meeting

2.00 Phoenix 3.30 Quiklink Beauty 4.00 Gas One Two 4.30 Kump Frode 5.00 Boreck Vary

Market Rasen (N.H.) tonight

8.50 Long Legs 8.50 River Racer 9.20 River Racer 9.50 Chief of Khazans

6.50 PROMOTA JOCKEYS TITLE SELLING PURSUE 2m 11 114yds 12.00
1 00-10-10 ELIX JUSTICE (2) R Hanson 5-4
2 00-10-10 ELIX JUSTICE (2) R Hanson 5-4

8.50 NOTARY CLUB NOVICE PURSUE 2m 11 114yds 12.00
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2 00-10-10 ELIX JUSTICE (2) R Hanson 5-4

7.50 TONY BOONMAKERS SUMMER FESTIVAL HANDICAP CHASE 2m 11 114yds 12.00
1 00-10-10 ELIX JUSTICE (2) R Hanson 5-4
2 00-10-10 ELIX JUSTICE (2) R Hanson 5-4

York with form

2.10 King Of Sports 2.40 Coffee 2.40 Ashford Wood 2.40 Cyprian's Head

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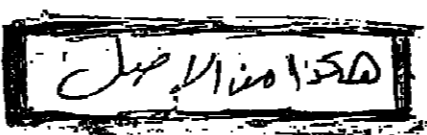
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EURO 96

Group B: Bulgaria 1, Romania 0

Over and out as ref robs Romania

Stoichkov's early strike wins battle of the Balkans

Michael Walker at St James' Park

IN THE run-up to this tournament all we seemed to hear about was 1966 and all that. And in Newcastle yesterday we were given a striking reminder of one of the 1966 final's most enduring images: the ball that never crossed the line.

Or did it? Yesterday it certainly did. Half an hour had gone when Romania's Gheorghe Hagi rolled a corner into the path of his fellow midfielder Dorinel Munteanu. He thumped the ball first-time from 25 yards and it appeared to be heading for the top corner when it clipped the underside of the bar, bounced down and out, to be headed to safety by Ivanov.

The referee Peter Mikkelsen awarded a corner, yet even to the naked eye it was clear the ball had crossed the line by a foot. Television replays merely confirmed this.

On this occasion, however, the linesman was not Russian but Danish, although the consequences of his non-intervention were just as dramatic as in '66. Bulgaria, 1-0 up at the time, held on for the next hour despite relentless yellow pressure, and Romania are out, the first team to leave the championship.

Anghel Iordanescu, the Romania manager, did a good job of hiding his disappointment afterwards and said: "I refuse to make any comment about that. It's up to you. Defeat is defeat."

And so Romania depart, courtesy of a massive blunder by their goalkeeper Stelae against France, a costly slip by their central defender Belodedici here, and a poor piece of refereeing, Bulgaria, meanwhile, soldier on. Having defected from their base in Scarborough, they now occupy Romania's Durham hotel in preparation for next Tuesday's meeting with France.

By then they will know exactly what they have to do; should France beat Spain at Elland Road tomorrow, the Bulgarians and French could

draw with each other and still go through.

Bulgaria, the World Cup semi-finalists in the United States, would become quarter-finalists in England and once more they would have one man in particular to thank, Hristo Stoichkov.

The man who should have had two on Sunday, only to have one disallowed, finally became the tournament's joint top scorer after barely two minutes. Iordanescu had resisted the temptation to drop Stelae but had withdrawn the services of one of his centre-halves, Mihaili. When, in the third minute, Stoichkov spun on to a Balakov through-ball, Stoichkov's marker Belodedici slipped, enabling the Bulgarian striker to run into the space where Mihaili's replacement Prodan should have been.

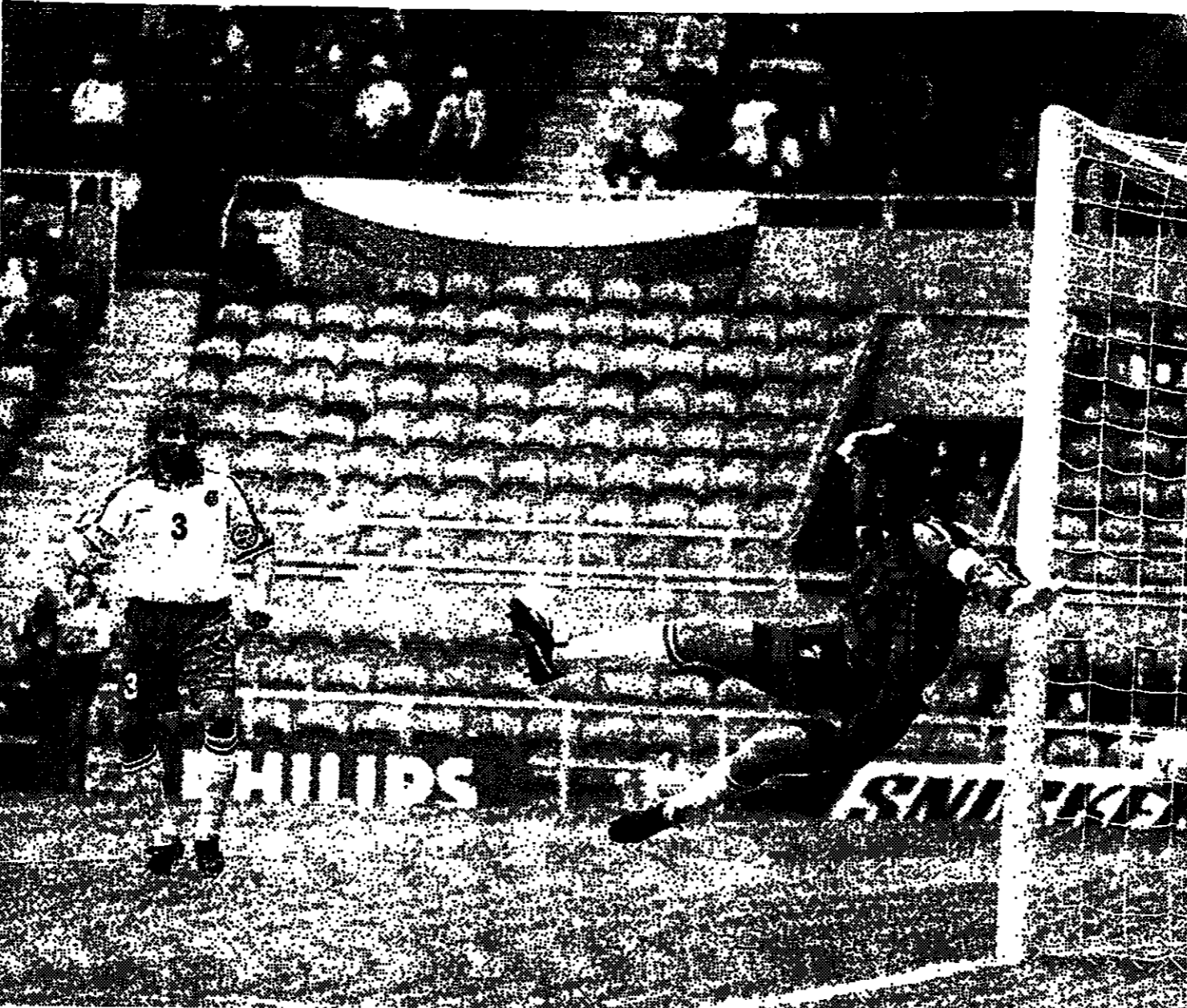
Like the menace he is, Stoichkov seized the moment, rushed into the space and took a hard left-foot shot into the corner. In the "Battle of the Balkans" the Lee Van Cleef of Bulgaria had drawn first blood.

His opposition gunslinger, Hagi, was caught putting his belt on. These two slinging footballers, great friends at Barcelona, had embraced each other warmly before the kick-off, no doubt aware that whoever could exert the more influence was central to the final outcome.

Yet it did not work out like that. Hagi was fundamental to almost every Romania attack, and since they had the majority of possession his was the more visible presence. Bulgaria, however, made more use of their time with the ball, the sheer quality of Balakov, Lechkov and Stoichkov giving them a distinctly sharper edge going forward.

Romania's two best chances both fell to Prodan, the wrong man. He put an unchallenged header wide from four yards with 20 minutes to go and in injury-time screwed a left-foot shot wide during a frantic scramble. Oh that the chances had fallen to Hagi; now his 100th appearance for Romania, against Spain on Tuesday, is not even relevant to Romania's destiny.

BULGARIA: Stoichkov, Kishaliev, Ivanov, Iordanescu, Lechkov, Trvetanov, Lechkov, Balakov, Stelae, Mihaili, Prodan, Penov, Sirakov, 70.
ROMANIA: Stelae, Patrescu, Belodedici, Prodan, Beyman, Lupescu (Gala, 4-6), Popescu (Ila, 72), Munteanu, Hagi, Lacatus (Moldovan, 23), Raducioiu.
Referee: P Mikkelsen (Denmark).



Echoes of 1966 and all that

FOR Geoff Hurst read Dorinel Munteanu; for Wembley read St James' Park. There was an echo of 1966 when Munteanu hit the underside of the bar (above), just as Hurst (left) did 30 years ago. Hurst's shot might not have crossed the line, but Munteanu's certainly did — except in the eyes of the referee Peter Mikkelsen (right).



Sol's plastic surgery



LET'S start with an exclusive: Gareth Southgate is out of the England team against Scotland tomorrow and John Barnes is in line for a late call-up.

Those suspecting the dead hand of the FA behind this shock selection would be right, because the organisation that brought you the great ticket fiasco has followed up with the amazing model man mix-up.

It all began several months ago when the FA supplied Corinthian Marketing — the officially licensed manufacturer of plastic models of the England squad — with a list of likely names for Euro 96. Unfortunately no one thought Southgate stood a chance, even though he has long been regarded as a model professional. And to top it off Phil Neville and Sol Campbell were also excluded. "We are producing England players in general rather than the specific squad," said Highly Embarrassed of High Wycombe.

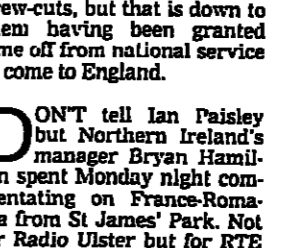
PS: the models are recognisable by their small bodies and big heads; rather like the FA, really.

HAVE you heard the one about the Yorkshireman who rang the FA with a problem? He had bought two seats together for all England's games for him and his best friend. Yes they'd turned up, yes they both had the correct names printed on them. But his best mate had since run off with his wife and he was wondering if he could be allocated different seats somewhere else in the stadium. He must still love his wife — or, after the dreadful display against Switzerland, he could have really punished her and sent her the ticket instead.

FAVOURITE chant of the tournament so far? Croatia's. Their song (phonetically reproduced for those readers not familiar with the correct pronunciation) "Sti, sti, sti, yigar, yigar" is definitely unique to them and, according to the Croatian bloke behind me, roughly translates as "Push, push, push, push, hold, hold" — a piece of tip-top tactical advice. Might the England faithful be persuaded to offer similar aid? "Drink, drink, drink, drink, sober up, sober up?" Incidentally, the Croatian fans are a menacing-looking bunch, but it isn't by choice. Most of their youngish supporters have vicious-looking crew-cuts, but that is down to them having been granted time off from national service to come to England.

DON'T tell Ian Paisley but Northern Ireland's manager Bryan Hamilton spent Monday night commenting on France-Romania from St James' Park. Not for Radio Ulster but for RTE across the border.

AND finally, a new series. Ridiculous haircuts that Gazza should consider for later use. No. 1: Trifon Ivanov (Bulgaria, below).



Torsorial note: The agricultural look, as auditioned for Lady Chatterlov's Lover

«Tennis? I prefer the French Open»

Pure class of Portuguese

John Duncan hears Antonio Oliveira reaffirm his team's attacking principles

PORTUGAL have started Euro 96 as the team to watch and now is not the time to take your eye off them, with their coach Antonio Oliveira confirming yesterday that they are not contemplating crawling into their shell after they outplayed Denmark in their first game but came away with only a 1-1 draw.

"We have tried to play for a long time in a way that people who like football will not reject," said Oliveira. "We want to get on the pitch and play in a way that people will applaud, and that is what we have done and will continue to do. This is the football everyone in Europe wants to watch."

And that includes everyone at Euro 96 after a first round of matches dominated by the fear of losing. Amid the caution and the cautions, Portugal won many friends with a performance that was crisp, adventurous and swift-paced.

It suggested that they share more than just a language with Brazil, with Paulo Sousa setting the pace of the game, Rui Costa

the focus of Portugal's passing, Figo pulling the opposition this way and that with tireless running, and all of them urged forward from the sidelines by the attack-obsessed Oliveira. His one fear, expressed on Wednesday by Costa, is that Portugal lack a world-class goalkeeper.

Oliveira himself is an interesting character. There was widespread dismay in the Portuguese press when he was appointed. He had been a fantastic player — a striker with 107 goals in 228 games in Portugal — but a mediocre manager with a small Portuguese club, Maritimo.

Despite that he got the job in 1994 after Portugal failed to qualify for the United States, and came pointed to his cosy relationship with the football federation; the company he and his brother run, Olivedito, owns the television and commercial rights to the national team. It would be slightly like Rupert Murdoch getting the England job.

Since then, though, the papers have come to respect him. "We all had

our doubts," said Joao Mouta of the sports daily Record, a circulation 170,000. "But little by little he has won everyone over. There is no doubt that he has a tremendous tactical brain and a great rapport with the players."

And the players have a great rapport with one another, largely because many of them have been together for 12 years, with 12 of the squad having come through from the world championship-winning under-16 side.

Reaction to the draw was unanimous in Portugal. "Desperdicio" (what a waste) was the headline in Record, the feeling being that although the team had played well they could not afford to miss so many chances again.

That said, nothing will change for today's game against Turkey at Nottingham's City Ground. "We've played the same team and strategy for two years and we are not about to change it now," said Oliveira. "Everyone is fit at the moment so it will be the same players, with one man up front again. We have played teams weaker and stronger than Turkey and we have never altered our team for our opponents. Let them worry about us."

Turkish papers round on Ozalan

THE Turkey defender Alpay Ozalan has acquired friends at Uefa for his sportsmanship but he has created some powerful enemies back home.

Ozalan elected not to foul Goran Visovic as the Croatia substitute ran clear from half-way to score the late winner in Tuesday's Group D game in Nottingham. A Uefa official praised him for his fair play — "it was a fine example of what we want to see" — but the Turkish press struck up a chorus of disapproval.

The dafties Ilurriyet and Sabah led the criticism. The former moaned, "He could have hung on to his waist and prevented the goal," and the latter said: "Alpay preferred fair play, he didn't touch his opponent; no team made up of professionals would have lost a goal like that."

Irish hit back after referee sends off three

THE Republic of Ireland's chief executive yesterday threatened to reject all future invitations to play in the US Cup unless tournament organisers promise to improve refereeing standards.

The Republic are incensed after having their manager Mick McCarthy, Liam Daish and Niall Quinn sent off in Wednesday night's 2-2 draw with Mexico at the Glants Stadium in New Jersey.

The FAI's chief executive Brendan Menton said: "Unless the Americans take action to improve the referees, we would have to look seriously at the situation as regards sending a team to future US Cups."

The game had erupted in the 57th minute with the Republic leading 2-1. Daish delayed taking a free-kick and was dismissed after Mexico's midfielder Jose Abundis reminded Dominguez that the Coventry defender had already been booked for a foul. Quinn, incensed by Abundis's involvement, ran from a seat on the substitutes' bench and was also shown the red card after grabbing Abundis.

Three minutes later McCarthy supporters and present

threw the ball into the crowd to prevent the Mexicans taking a quick free-kick. "I have never seen anything like what happened on the pitch," said McCarthy, who will allow his assistant Ian Evans to take over in the dugout for tomorrow's game against Bolivia.

Sheffield Wednesday's Yugoslav striker Darko Kovacevic is set to join Real Sociedad for £2.5 million — the same amount David Pleat paid for him last October.

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SportsGuardian

EURO 96

Group A: Switzerland 0, Holland 2

Dutch turn up heat on England

Martin Thorpe at Villa Park

HE INSISTS on being called Jordi and not Cruyff to avoid the burden of expectation of carrying his father's name. But last night Jordi Cruyff scored a goal as fine as any tucked away by Johan to finally set Holland on their way in Euro 96. A second by Bergkamp nine minutes from time only made this Dutch victory over the Swiss even worse for England's cause.

Such was the Dutch coach's concern after failing to beat the Scots in the first match that he made six changes for this game, three personnel and three positional. It was no surprise that the captain Blind, who was previously suspended, started in defence.

But the big shock was the decision to drop the Milan-bound Davids, replaced at the back by Seedorf, who was switched from midfield in an attempt to improve the lines of communication ahead.

This ploy lasted all of 24 minutes, for after getting booked for one foul and being lucky not to get sent off for hauling down Turkylmaz when he was through on the right, Seedorf was taken off and replaced by the less gifted but more practised De Kock.

Turkylmaz's run was symptomatic of most of Switzerland's raid, one that was promising but ultimately failing to test Van der Sar. The greater threat came from Holland, urged on by an estimated 17,000 orange-clad fans who had tangoed Villa Park; they had even managed to smuggle in a band to lead the chants in the stand behind one goal.

They had plenty to encourage them, if little to enthuse over. Their best early chance was created by Bergkamp, who managed to pull back the

ball from the left byline to Winter, who shot straight at Pascolo from five yards.

The Arsenal player fired another shot into the side-netting and a third at the keeper. The Swiss, meanwhile, came close with Chapuisat's header at the Dutch goalkeeper, and Turkylmaz's free-kick was deflected just over.

Four minutes into the second half Switzerland's best chance up to that point fell to a defender, Hottiger, who had been recalled after suspension. Grassi went on a weaving run past two Dutch players and fed a great ball to the Everton player inside the area. But with the goal in open view he blasted impetuously over.

But slowly Holland turned up the pressure. Bergkamp ran stylishly on to De Boer's 30-yard pass but shot over, then set up Jordi who hit the side-netting. And on 59 minutes the Dutch so nearly went ahead. Hoekstra's cross from the left sailed deep to the far post where Jordi's header down eluded the dive of the keeper Pascolo and seemed to be destined for the net. But from nowhere Henchoz arrived to hook the ball acrobatically off the line.

Seven minutes later, however, the Dutch got the goal their fans and their nerves desperately required. De Boer fired in a corner from the left which Pascolo punched away, but as he was under pressure the ball went straight to Jordi on the right edge of the area. After taking his time controlling the ball, the 22-year-old whipped in a left-foot shot inside Pascolo's near post for his first international goal at the most fitting of moments.

HOLLAND: Van der Sar; Seedorf (De Kock, Blind, Bogarde, Hottiger, Winter, De Boer, Wiltch, Bergkamp, Hoekstra).

SWITZERLAND: Pascolo; Jannauer, Henchoz, West, Hottiger, Grassi, Ouedraoui, Turkylmaz, Grassi, Chapuisat.

Referee: A. Ouzounov (Bulgaria).



Dutch of class... Bogarde of Holland is head and shoulders above Switzerland's Turkylmaz. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Time for the Scots 'tae think again'



Frank Keating

THE Scots should enjoy their own sounds and furies while they can — but they presage nothing but doom. For the blue-shirts, methinks, are in for a black weekend, and from both the soccer at Wembley and the rugby in faraway Dunedin they will be sent home to their grimy glens, cold crofts and chilled lives "tae think again".

It will be no less than they deserve. The Scots in recent times have become braying and boorishly big for their football boots. It is all very well for an unconsidered little sporting country to talk a big game before kick-off. But not when they are duly and fairly thrashed, to display mean-spirited and resentful grudges.

Is it too much to hope that after their defeat at Wembley tomorrow the Scotland team and supporters will show manners more couth than their rugby counterparts at Murrayfield? They are, we are told, two different types of followers, but one fears they are two of a kind when it comes to the sporting chivalries.

Two of their own writers put it down to Westminster and the state of the Union. In Arnold Kemp's history of recent Scottish politics, *The Hollow Drum*, he asks why the rugby throng sings *Flower of Scotland* with such a hard-edged passion — "and is there anything more peculiar than the sight of some pertin' Edinburgh insurance broker, Unionist to his fingertips, unleashing a volley of abuse to the English team? Murrayfield nationalism is a kind of vapour rising from the Union, a venting of resentment and jealousy."

Similarly for the soccer tribe, this week the Observer's Euan Ferguson warned London: "The Scots arrive on Saturday in a city whose government, while playing host to the rest of Europe, is simultaneously squandering every last billion of Euro-hated in a final desperate election bid, having already alienated its former Union partner forever. And you ask why the Scots hate the English?"

It is eight years since the Scots were last beaten at Wembley, after which the ancient fixture was discontinued by

the English — all of 11 years later than it should have been, after 1977's match in which Wembley was trashed by Scottish horses as overture to London's West End being ransacked far into the night.

The rugby folk are fools of a more cold and considered kind, as would almost any unbiased observer at this year's Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield, or at the World Sevens finals, boldly won by England in 1993. On both occasions the reception for the visitors in white was grudging, graceless and ambivalent.

Even the officiously badged and blazered bods up there have been hoist by their own sense of importance. The England RFU's multi-million deal this week with Sky TV had the SRU blazer Fred McLennan, apologetically conceding that England "will be asked to make alternative arrangements for the 1997-98 Five Nations season" and (wait for it) "will now have difficulties in finding match officials".

Big deal. No remote thought that Scotland should think themselves lucky, in rugby's new competitive day and age, to have the chance of a fixture against England. Before the Scots' XV, with such crucial ease, was laid to waste by England at Murrayfield in March, the bases in blue had won but one solitary match against the English in the previous 10.

One out of 10. Were Twickenham running a village cricket team they would have long sent a "Dear Jock" letter saying: "Sorry, but we are ambitious and competitive enough to want to strengthen our fixture list so can find no date next season to accommodate you." Which was, to all intents, the gist of the letter sent by the English FA in 1989.

AS WITH so many things, Sir Alf Ramsey spotted the future trend of international sport more quickly than most — indeed, possibly began Scotland's inferiority complex when it comes to ball games against England — with his famous retort when an SEFA official met him and his team at Prestwick airport in 1968. "Welcome to Scotland, Sir Alf!" "You must be effing joking!" In the Paramount Bar in Aberdeen they have installed in the gents' stand-up urinals a series of watertight television screens and for 50p you can beam up a picture you can favouritely hate before inflicting the ultimate indignity on his or her image. Till now, apparently, the most popular choice (and leaving Mrs Thatcher and Saddam Hussein far behind) has been Wilf Carr. After tomorrow, it will doubtless be Terry Venables.

Euro 96 results

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Monty endures in war of nerves

Scot simmers on the service road and Faldo scrambles to survive in the 96th US Open

David Davies in Detroit

ON A day made deceptively difficult by an eve-of-tournament deluge of tropical proportions, scoring at Oakland Hills was decidedly un-spectacular yesterday. The 1991 champion Payne Stewart and Woody Austin were the early leaders with three-under-par 67s, followed by the 1993 champion Lee Janzen on 68.

Philip Walton was the best of the early Europeans with a hard-working 69, a score compiled largely because he managed to par the two holes at which he missed the fairway. At the second of them, the 16th, he was buried in a thick but suspiciously green clump of grass, and indeed it turned out to harbour casual water so he got a free drop.

The entire course was in fact not-so-casual water, de-

spite the best efforts of ground staff from 25 nearby clubs, and after two inches of rain in two hours it was a miracle play took place at all. But Colin Montgomerie, with a level-par 70, Sam Torrance with a 71 and Nick Faldo with a 72 kept in contention.

Montgomerie was disgruntled right from the start, perhaps because he took what was obviously the wrong club for his second at the 1st hole, flew the green and finished on a service road at the back.

He got a free drop, but finding somewhere to take it amid the sea of mud was not easy. Nor was the subsequent shot, for he had little green to work with, and he eventually two-putted from 30 feet for a bogey.

However, he reached the plateau green of the long 2nd, 523 yards, with two superb driver shots, and when he also birdied the 4th he moved

into the red figures that denote sub-par scoring.

He remained that way until he got to the 8th, a short hole of some 220 yards which yesterday was into the breeze and also sported a pin position that called for an all-or-nothing tee shot. The tee was sheltered and the wind deceptive, and Montgomerie, with a three-iron, went for the pin — and fell a yard short, into a bunker. Playing after him, Phil Mickelson saw what had happened and changed down to a two-iron.

When the Scot got to his ball he immediately went into why-me mode. He stared, hands on hips, at his lie, gave a big sigh, swished his sand wedge angrily at the grass and went into the sand beaten before he started. Sure enough, his recovery was less than perfect, hit a ridge and began to trickle, slowly but irrevocably, off the green. He

did well to get down in two more from there.

He then hit a perfect drive off the 10th tee, fading between the two driving bunkers into position A, and walked to the back of the tee to grab a half-time orange. A spectator said admiringly: "Great drive, Monty," but Monty was too angry even to grunt an acknowledgement.

A birdie at the 11th got him under par again but then he missed putts of six and four feet at the 12th and 15th before dropping a final shot at the 18th. His second missed the green and settled into a clump of really thick grass. The Scot had to take a huge, soft swing to remove the ball at all and it was no surprise when it ran 10 feet past the hole.

After signing his card Montgomerie went into some sort of reverie. "I had a lot of chances," he said eventually. "I didn't convert my opportunities."

Behind him Faldo was having to scramble to survive. His second shots were out of sync and his putting not bril-

liant either. After hitting the green he missed the last four of the front nine, including the 7th where he was in the greenside bunker, and missed a 10-foot par putt. Earlier, at the 5th, he had a 20-foot birdie putt which he missed to the tune of four feet, and things were not quite meshing for him.

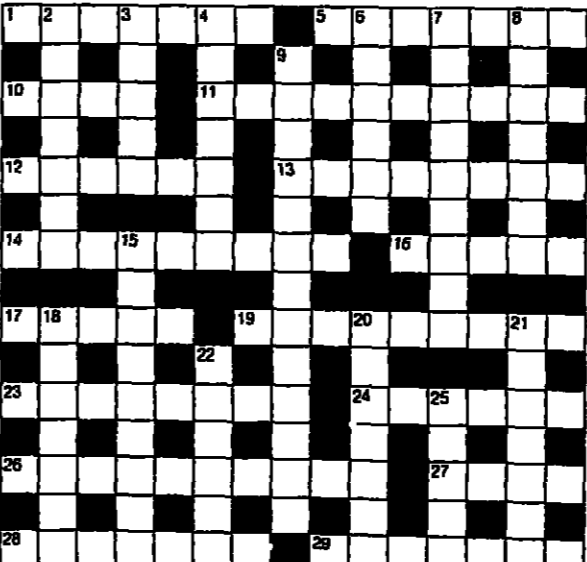
He was experimenting with what he called a zero iron, a one-iron made even steeper, which he called "the perfect club" for the conditions. He used it six times altogether, but it was the next shot which was proving difficult and he admitted: "I didn't hit it close enough on the greens."

However, he dropped only one more shot, at the 15th where a poor five-iron left him a huge putt over two enormous undulations, and he needed three of them. "I played quite well and 72 was the most I could have taken," he said afterwards.

Ian Woosnam reached the turn in one under, but that was as good as it got. Three shots slipped away for a 72.

Guardian Crossword No 20,679

Set by Shed



- Across**
- Sloping round to gain intelligence in obscene setting (7)
 - Arm pinning King (English lectures) (7)
 - Turned up cut (4)
 - What autumnal tree does to confections (4-6)
 - Ecstasy interrupting nurse's professional life (6)
 - Hermitic prole organises old flame's funeral (6)
 - Sleaz into marches: they seem absurd (6)
 - Tree housing holy simian (6)
 - Melice puts point on end of skewer (5)
 - Fish and chips cooked with lard... (6)
 - ... tail of fish or the middle bit? (6)
 - Traveler's gold rejected by a good number (6)
- Down**
- Not calling a spade a spade could make a pitch more original (10)
 - Blind of rank (4)
 - Mild oath to scatter half of them (7)
 - Carriage being delivered (7)
 - Fruit many wrapped in kerchief (7)
 - Compiler's to be held underground with soak (5)
 - Cook insufficiently rounded off (7)
 - A steep fluctuation of currency (6)
 - A dad about to weep with laughter, reading sacred texts (5)
 - Oriental gets go-ahead to keep the French in the dark (7)
 - Sensational literature featuring gambler, one among dancers (6-7)

15 Passionately love Alberta's old instrument (6)

18 Joke on man with taste (7)

20 Forecaster under cold vessel (7)

21 Boost fertility, getting long time in prison (7)

22 Pain gets in the way of small holder (6)

25 Fasten boat carrying model car (5)

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It is fashionable to claim that dance music is a global culture. For a start, most techno is wordless and there is no language barrier to understanding the mechanical thuds. Clubbing is also an international experience, so the story goes.

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